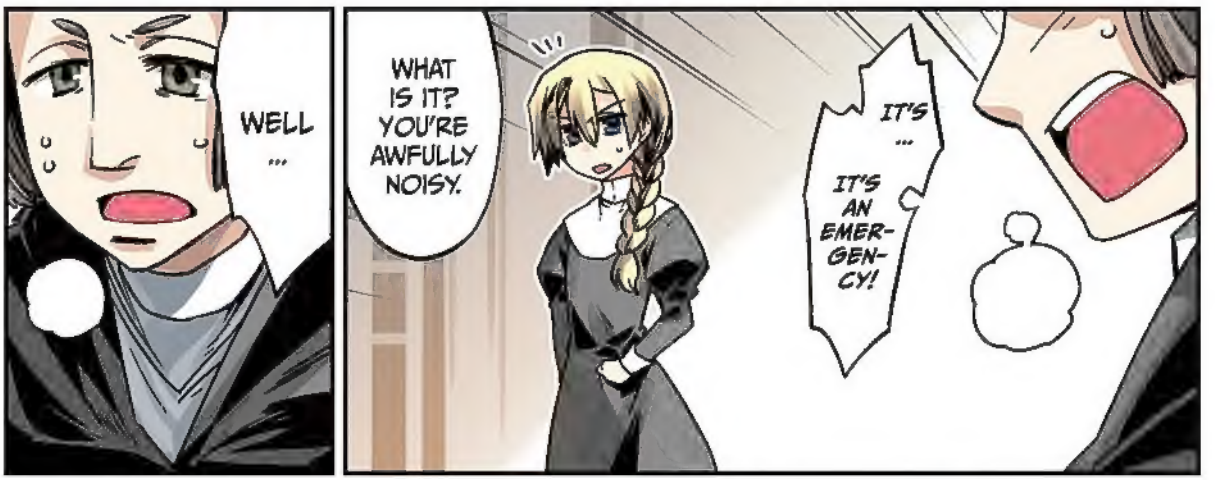
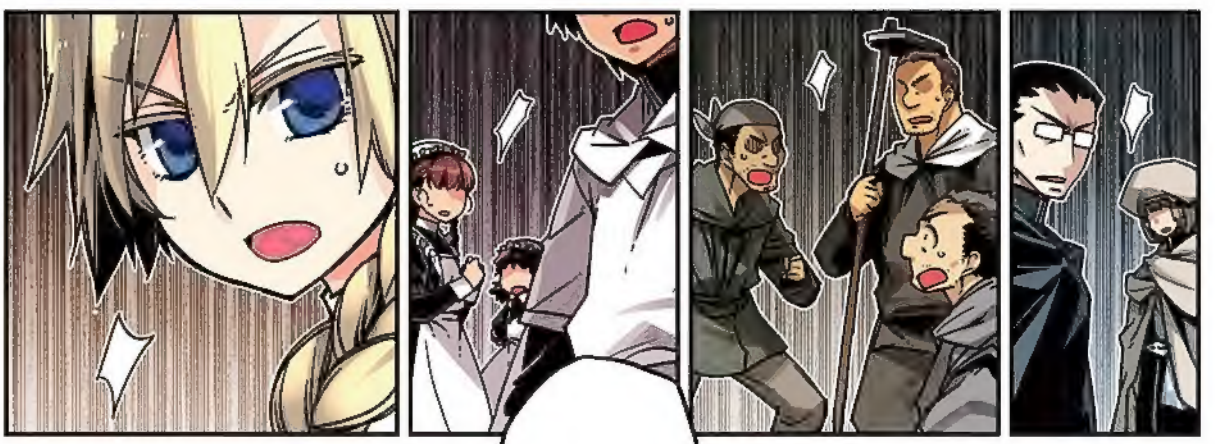
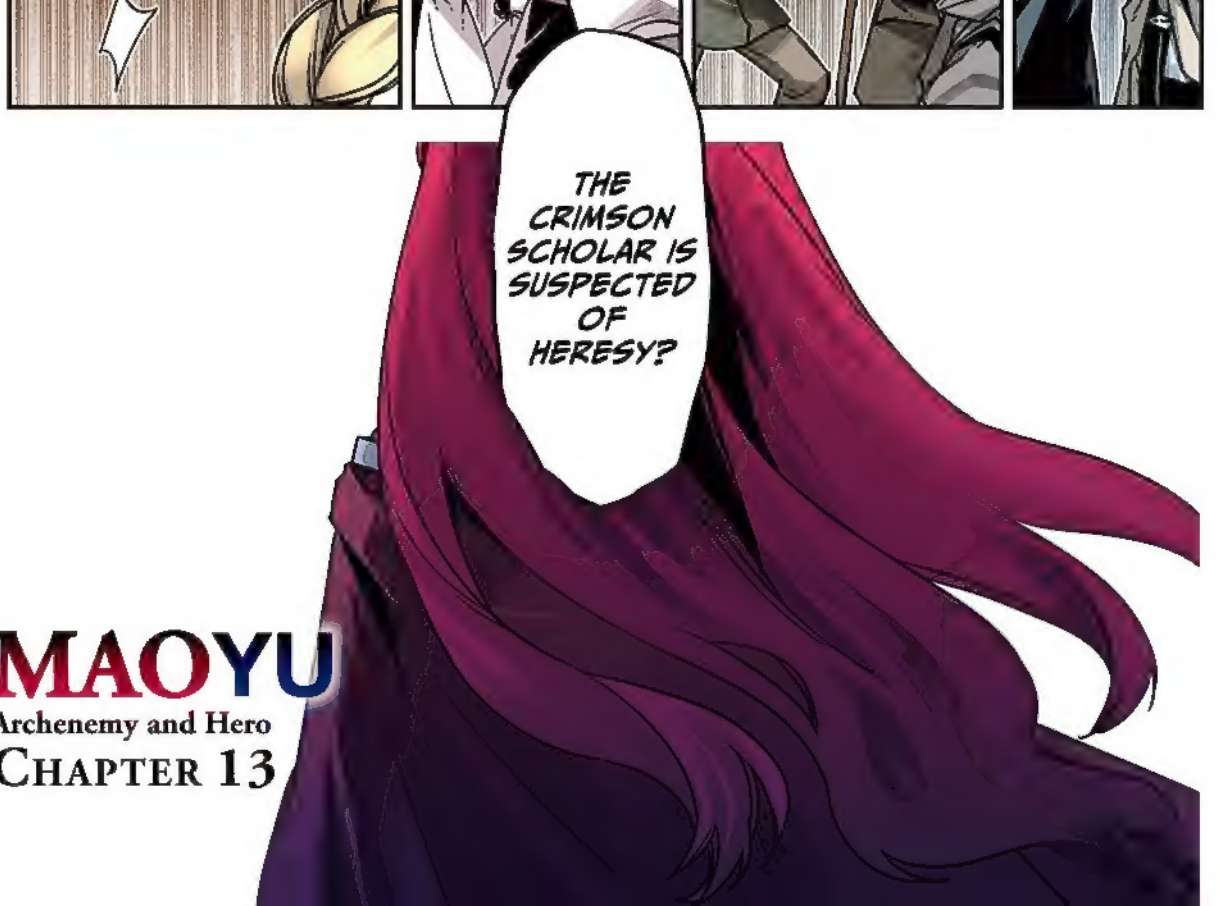
Art by
AKIRA ISHIDA

Original Work by
MAMARE TOUNO

Character Design by KEINOJOU MIZUTAMA and toi8







MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
Chapter 13

Art by
AKIRA ISHIDA

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MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"

Archenemy and Hero **CHAPTER 13**

I Don't Want to be Left Behind Anymore

Archenemy and Hero **CHAPTER 13**

I Don't Want to be Left Behind Anymore

MAOYU

VOLUME 4

Art by **AKIRA ISHIDA**

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CHAPTER 13 Archenemy and Hero 001

I Don't Want to be Left Behind Anymore

CHAPTER 14 Archenemy and Hero 047

Because I am "Human"

CHAPTER 15 Archenemy and Hero 091

That is the Beginning

CHAPTER 16 Archenemy and Hero 133

What Can You Do With a Single Coin?

MAOYU

Archenemy and Hero

"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"

Volume 4

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COLUMN PAGE
Daisuke Takenouchi, Nagisa Hanakura (Recca-sha)
Masataka Nomura

Lectures on Archenemy and Hero
Outline of volume.3

As a result of this battle, humans retake control of Aurora Island, and the Winter Kingdom revives the trade routes of the Antarctic Ocean. Furthermore, the Winter, Iron, and Ice Kingdoms form a Three Kingdom Trade Alliance, strengthening the bonds between the Southern Kingdoms.

Meanwhile, with the efforts of the Commander of the Eastern Fortress who tried to protect the remaining humans, Gateway City, the city from which the Holy Key Expeditionary Force withdrew, had become an unprecedented city where demons and humans live together.

In this manner, the efforts of the Demon Queen and Hero, who are striving to reach the yet unseen other side of the hill, steadily yielded results focused around the Winter Kingdom, but the Demon Queen had two fears: the condition of the Spirit World she has long left abandoned, and her visit to the Palace of the Underworld, where the souls of past demon kings and queens are sealed. Leaving the Hero to handle the rest of her affairs, the Demon Queen departs with the Chief Maid for the Spirit World in order to resolve these issues.

However, at the same time, the Lonely Winter King was visited by an envoy from the Central Church demanding the king hand over the Crimson Scholar. The Demon Queen stood accused of committing heresies against the church...

WE HAVE BROUGHT THE RESISTANCE FORCES IN THE MOUNTAINS UNDER CONTROL AND ARE OCCUPYING THE AREA.
WE HAVE SECURED THE BEACH-HEAD.
WE HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OVER THE LANDING POINT.

In order to truly end the long war between humans and demons, the Demon Queen and Hero begin working together. The Demon Queen moves to the human world under the name the "Crimson Scholar," where she worked to spread and popularize potatoes, corn, and the compass while teaching her apprentices. Meanwhile, as the Demon Queen's "Black Knight," the Hero traveled to the Spirit World to shut down the pro-war demons before they got out of control.

As this was happening, the Lonely Winter King's "Second Landing Operation to Recover Aurora Island" commenced. The Female Knight, a former traveling companion of the Hero, was designated the supreme commander of the operation, spearheaded the attack and fought gallantly, and the soldiers who saw her were roused by her valiant figure. The Female Knight's clever tactics felled one demon stronghold after another, and the human armies began closing in on the demon forces' leader, the Antarctic General. Though the Antarctic General seemed to be preparing to hold his secure fortress against a siege, upon seeing the appearance of the over 10,000 soldiers of the Holy Key Expeditionary Force led by the Hero, he is forced to retreat. In order to support his retreating allies, the Antarctic General takes up the rear and harasses the Allied Forces, but he is defeated in single combat by the Female Knight, and the battle is decided.

SUMMARY OF MAOYU VOLUME 3

Lectures on Archenemy and Hero
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The young man convinced to work with the Demon Queen to end the war. He possesses exceptional combat strength. He operates in the Spirit World as the Demon Queen's Black Knight.

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One of three traveling companions who once subdued demons with the Hero. As the prioress of the Lakeside Convent, the now works from Overwinter Village.

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After his father and the former king died in battle, he took over the Winter Kingdom. He fights hard with the aim of becoming independent from the Central Continent.

THE BUTLER

A dandy old man employed by the Lonely Winter King. His true identity is the Archer who once traveling with the Hero.

THE YOUNG MERCHANT

Leader of the Alliance, the human world's largest economic organization. He falls in love with the Demon Queen during their negotiations and is deeply affected by her.

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Queen of the Winter Kingdom's neighboring nation, the Ice Kingdom. She supports the Lonely Winter King and enters the Three Kingdom Trade Alliance

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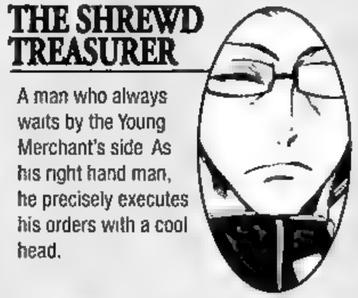
King of the Iron Kingdom and brave and experienced warrior. The Iron Kingdom is known as the continent's eminent industrial nation.



THE SHREWD TREASURER

A man who always waits by the Young Merchant's side As his right hand man, he precisely executes his orders with a cool head.

THE MIDNIGHT SUN KING

King of the Midnight Sun Kingdom. Due to discord with the Winter Kingdom and others, his is the only Southern Kingdom not participating in the trade alliance.

THE ONE EYED COMMANDER

Former commander of the Holy Key Expeditionary Force. Though he is sentenced to death for losing a battle, he is saved by the Midnight Sun King

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Mercenary officer of the Holy Key Expeditionary Force After the withdrawal of the army, he begins negotiating with demons to protect the remaining humans.

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Monarch of the demons. Searching for a world she has not yet seen, she intends to truly end the war by using her vast knowledge as a weapon. She calls herself the Crimson Scholar in the human world.

THE OLDER MAID SISTER

A former serf. After escaping into the Demon Queen's mansion, she began working there as a maid. The Demon Queen's lessons inspire her to ponder the meaning of her existence

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Has been caring for the Demon Queen since she was a child. She is related to the Demon Queen and devotes herself daily to the pursuit of the "Way of the Maid "

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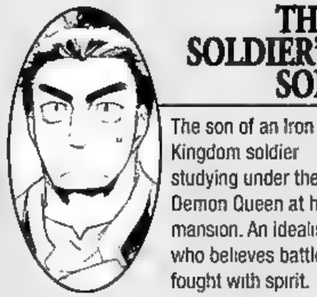
A former serf working alongside her sister in the Demon Queen's mansion. Through her work as a maid, she learns the joy of cooking.

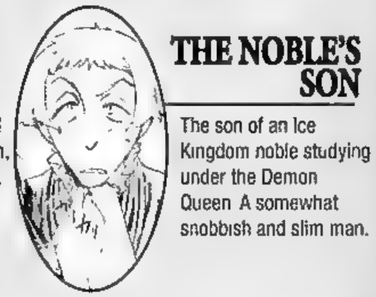


THE SOLDIER'S SON

The son of an Iron Kingdom soldier studying under the Demon Queen at her mansion. An idealist who believes battles are fought with spirit.

THE MERCHANT'S SON

Though he once studied under the Demon Queen, at her recommendation, he began working at the royal palace of the Winter Kingdom. The third son of a merchant family.



THE NOBLE'S SON

The son of an Ice Kingdom noble studying under the Demon Queen A somewhat snobbish and slim man.

ARCHDUKE FIRE DRAGON

Leader of the Fire Dragon Clan, one of the largest demon clans. He thinks highly of the Black Knight (the Hero) who defeated him.

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Beloved daughter of Archduke Fire Dragon. She believes the Black Knight, who defeated her father, is the man who will become her husband.

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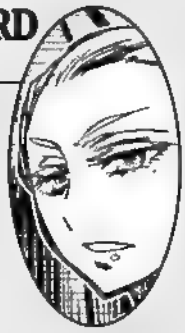

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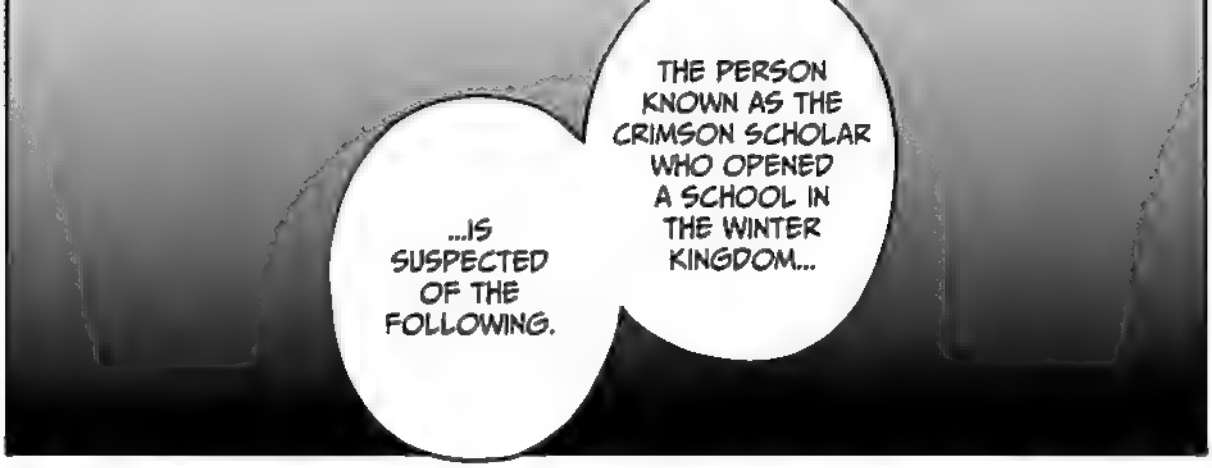
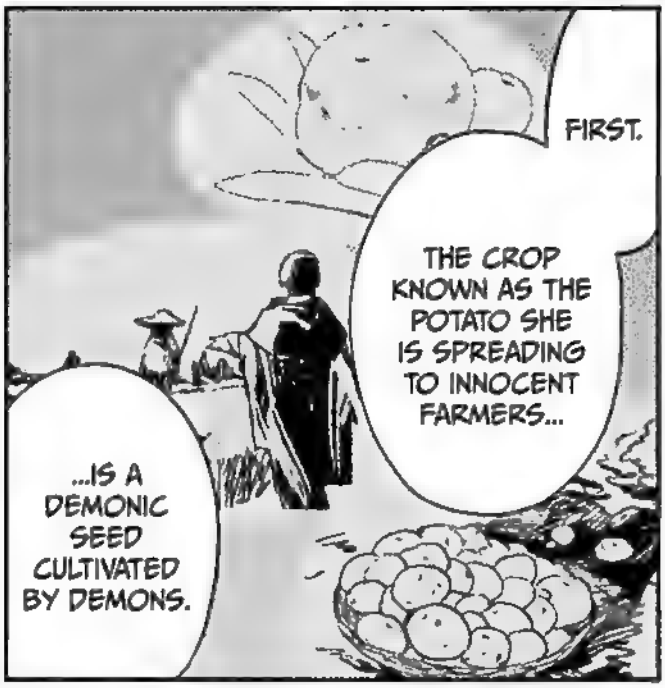
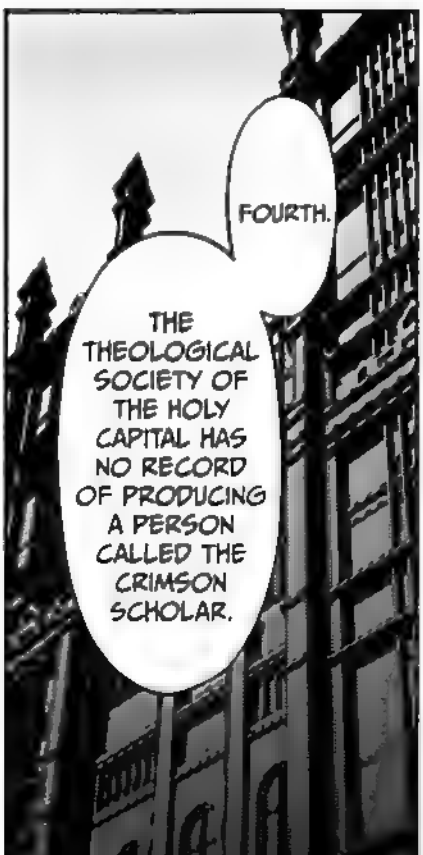

THE PERSON KNOWN AS THE CRIMSON SCHOLAR WHO OPENED A SCHOOL IN THE WINTER KINGDOM...
...IS SUSPECTED OF THE FOLLOWING.

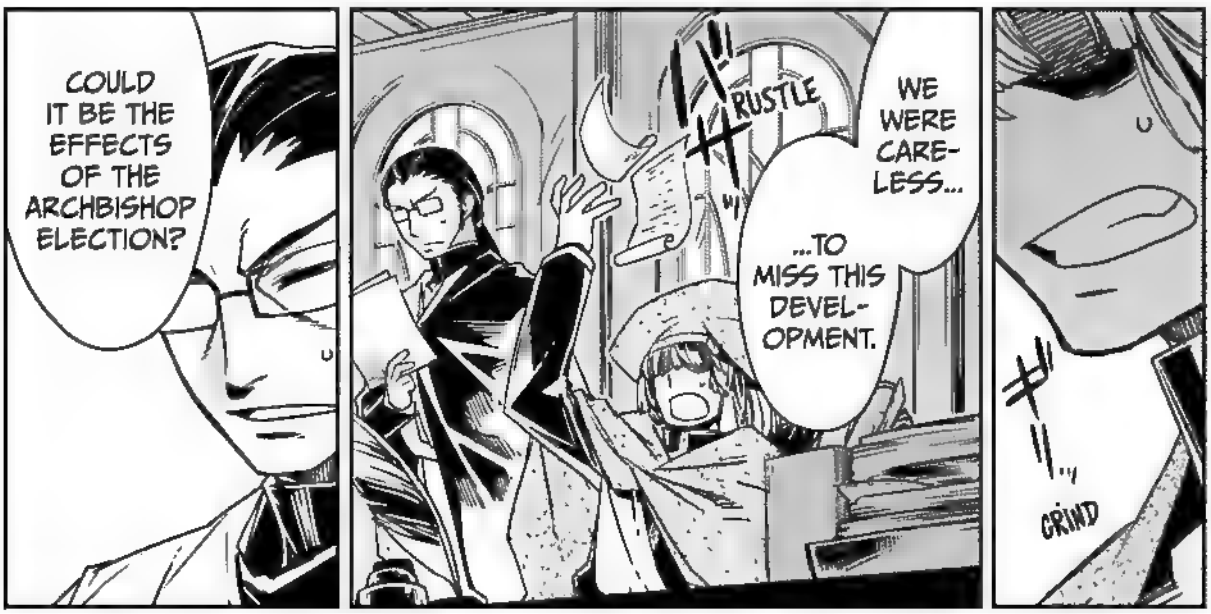
SEC-OND.
THE AGRI-CULTURAL METHOD KNOWN AS FERTILIZATION SHE TEACHES IS NOT IN THE TEACHING OF THE SPIRITS...
...AND IS SUSPECT-ED OF BELONG-ING TO EVIL PAGAN TEACH-INGS.


FIRST.
THE CROP KNOWN AS THE POTATO SHE IS SPREADING TO INNOCENT FARMERS...
...IS A DEMONIC SEED CULTIVATED BY DEMONS.


FOURTH.
THE THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CAPITAL HAS NO RECORD OF PRODUCING A PERSON CALLED THE CRIMSON SCHOLAR.

THIRD.
THE SCIENCES SHE TEACHES IN HER SCHOOL...
...DEFY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH AND SHOW CONTEMPT FOR THE CHURCH.

BASED ON ACCUSATIONS AND THE AFOREMENTIONED DOUBTS...
...THERE IS AMPLE REASON TO SUSPECT THE CRIMSON SCHOLAR OF HERESY.
CENTRAL CHURCH OF THE LIGHT INQUISITOR.
SO IT SAYS.


COULD IT BE THE EFFECTS OF THE ARCHBISHOP ELECTION?
RUSTLE
WE WERE CARELESS...
...TO MISS THIS DEVELOPMENT.
GRIND

YES.
THE NEWLY INAUGURATED ARCHBISHOP IS A TRUE FIDEIST.
HE MUST BE PLANNING A THIRD HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE...
...TO REVIVE THE DECLINING PRESTIGE OF THE CHURCH.
CREAK

CONSE-
QUENTLY, THE
CENTRAL
CONTINENT'S
INFLUENCE
OVER THEM IS
WEAKENING.
THE POTATO AND
IMPROVEMENTS
IN AGRICULTURAL
TECHNIQUES HAVE
ALLOWED THEM
TO PRODUCE
ENOUGH FOOD
WITHOUT RELYING
ON THE CENTRAL
CONTINENT.
CENTERED
AROUND THE
WINTER KINGDOM,
THE SOUTHERN
KINGDOMS ARE
STRENGTHENING
THEIR ECONOMIC
INDEPENDENCE.
AND THE
SOUTHERN
KINGDOMS
RESTORING
DOMESTIC
AFFAIRS
ARE IN HIS
WAY...
...
YES
?
...NO, THEIR
ATTEMPTS
TO REATTACH
COLLARS AND
CHAINS TO
THEIR GUARD
DOGS.
...ARE INTER-
FERING WITH
THE CENTRAL
KINGDOM'S
ATTEMPTS TO
REGAIN THAT
INFLUENCE...
THE
SCHOLAR'S
IMPROVE-
MENTS AND
TEACHINGS...
CLICK
KNOCK
KNOCK
THERE'S
NOTHING
WE CAN
DO RIGHT
NOW.
WE
SHOULD
BE DOING
SOME-
THING
ELSE.
WHAT
SHOULD
THE
ALLIANCE
DO?

HEY.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE TIME.
IT'S YOU. I WAS JUST THINKING OF CALLING YOU.
I KNOW THAT.
...BUT I'M JUST STARTING TO GET BUSY.
YES. I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO JOIN THE 10-MAN COMMIT-TEE...
YOU'RE FINALLY A COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE, HUH? YOU'RE RISING IN THE RANKS.
YOUR SUC-CESS WITH THE COM-PASS AND CORN HAD A MAJOR IMPACT.
AND...
...AT THE CRIMSON SCHOLAR'S SCHOOL.
WE'VE MET SEVERAL TIMES IN THE ICE KINGDOM PALACE...
WHO IS HE?

I AP-
PRECI-
ATE
YOUR
HELP.
HE SAID
HE HAD
BUSI-
NESS
HERE.
YES.
IT'S
GOOD TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN,
YOUNG
MER-
CHANT.
HOW
IS HER
MAJESTY
DOING?
I'LL
TAKE
THAT.
HERE'S THE
BLIZZARD
QUEEN'S
PAYMENT.
CLINK
SHE
FINDS THIS
INCIDENT
TROUBLING.
HOWEVER,
THE LEADER
OF THE THREE
KINGDOM TRADE
ALLIANCE IS THE
LONELY WINTER
KING.
SHE WAS
VERY CLEAR
ABOUT THAT.

I SEE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
WELL
I WASN'T BEING VERY USEFUL IN MY KINGDOM.
EVEN THE QUEEN TOLD ME TO VISIT THE OTHER KINGDOMS IF I HAVE NOTHING TO DO.
THEN...
...WHY DON'T YOU ACCEPT MY COMMIS-SION?
NEGOTIATE WITH THE 10-MAN COMMITTEE OF THE ALLIANCE HEADQUAR-TERS.
!
BUT HE'S AN OUT-SIDER!

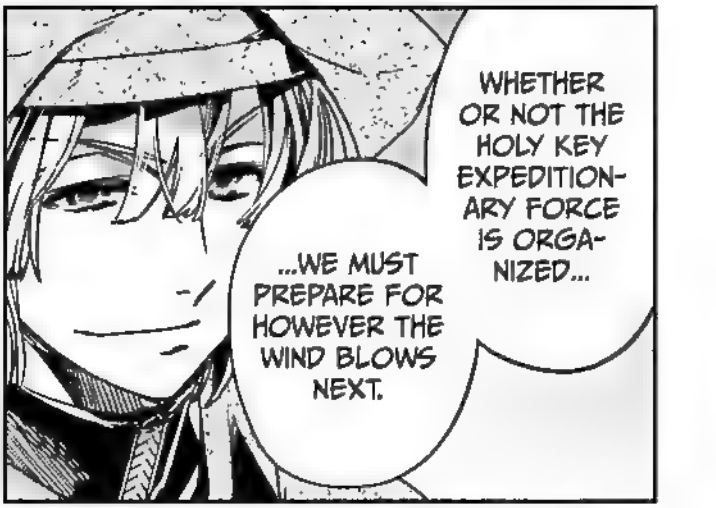
WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE NEGO-TIATION?
I WANT YOU TO BRING THE 10-MAN COMMIT-TEE TO A STAND-STILL.
HOW YOU DO IT IS UP TO YOU.
THIS IS THAT KIND OF WAR.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS OUTSID-ERS.
AS LONG AS HE HAS COINS, NO ONE CAN BE CONSIDERED AN OUTSIDER.
WHAT WE NEED NOW IS TIME.
BOTH MY-SELF...
...AND YOUR MASTER.
YOU WANT BE TO BUY TIME.

I CAN'T COUNT MONEY OR DO BATTLE.
NO! NO.
THE PLACE YOU'RE HEADING IS QUITE THE BATTLE-FIELD.
THE ONLY THINGS I'M GOOD AT ARE GOSSIPING AND DANCING AT COURT.
I ACCEPT ...
...THOUGH I CANNOT GUARAN-TEE MY METHODS OR THE RESULTS.
GOOD GRIEF.
LOOKS LIKE I DREW THE SHORT STRAW.
IT'S DECIDED, THEN.
MIDDLE AGED MERCHANT, PLEASE GUIDE AND ASSIST HIM.
I KNOW...
...BUT I'M SURE I WON'T JUST DIE WITH A DUMB-STRUCK EXPRES-SION.
I WONDER WHAT'S POPULAR IN THE CENTRAL CONTINENT THESE DAYS
LET'S GO.

I'M SURE HE'LL BE ABLE TO OBSERVE THE ALLE-GIANCES OF THE OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY OF THEM SUPPORT THE ARCHBISHOP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT HIM TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE 10-MAN COMMITTEE?
SHE WOULD PROBABLY DISDAIN ME IF I WERE TO LEAN EITHER WAY.
WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?
NEITHER.

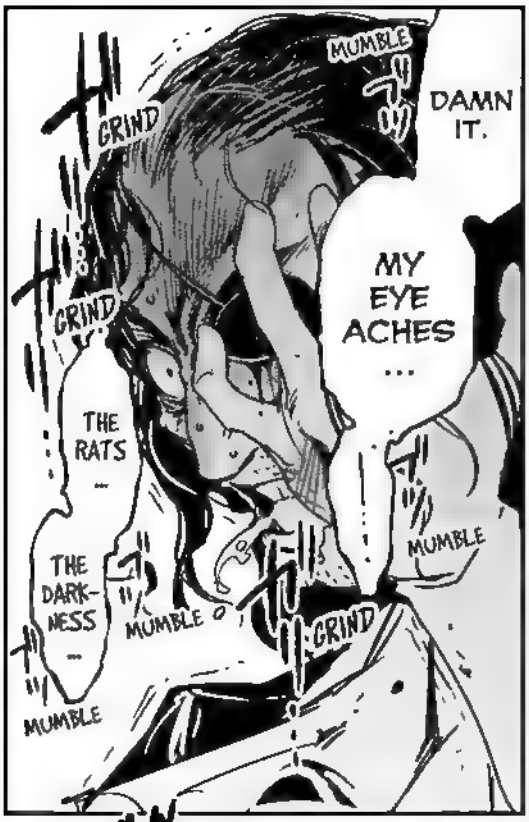
WHAT SHALL I DO?
MAKE A STATUS INQUIRY.
I WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH DYNAMIC PROPERTY ALL THE BRANCHES OF THE ALLIANCE HAVE.
I WANT TO KNOW THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE ALLIANCE'S MERCHANTS.

YES, SIR.
HOWEVER...


WHETHER OR NOT THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IS ORGANIZED...
...WE MUST PREPARE FOR HOWEVER THE WIND BLOWS NEXT.

...I WONDER WHO MASTERMINDED THIS COURSE OF EVENTS.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
SERVES YOU RIGHT, WINTER KINGDOM CUB!
HEE HEE HEE HEE
DAMN YOUR ICE FLOES!
DAMN YOUR AGRICULTURAL REFORM!
DAMN YOUR PRODUCTIVITY!
THERE'S NO WAY THE SPIRITS WOULD EVER ACCEPT YOUR METHODS!
DON'T YOU AGREE...
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND


MUMBLE
GRIND
DAMN IT.
GRIND
MY EYE ACHES ...
THE RATS ...
THE DARK-NESS ...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
GRIND
MUMBLE
MUMBLE

GRIND
GRIND
...HONORABLE COMMANDER OF THE HOLY KEY EXPE-DITIONARY FORCE?
CHATTER
GRIND
YES.
THEY DESERVE TO GO TO HELL.

HA
HA
HA
GIVE ME AN ARMY! GIVE ME ARMS AND LEGS!
KILL!
HA
KILL!
I'LL KILL THEM ALL!
HA
HA
HA

I'M THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU FROM WAITING FOR DEATH IN THAT DUNGEON.
DON'T FORGET THAT.
I AM GRATE-FUL.
LET ME HANDLE YOUR ENEMIES, MIDNIGHT SUN KING.
CHUCKLE

I CAN SEE THEM LOSING THEIR MINDS.
HA HA HA
THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?
HEH HEH
FIRST WE'LL INFLICT ON THAT CUB A THOUSAND TIMES THE HUMILIATION I TASTED.
SNICKER
NOW, HOLD ON.
WE CAN KILL THEM ANY-TIME.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
I WILL DE-STROY ... ...YOUR KINGDOM AND EVERY-THING IMPOR-TANT TO YOU!
WINTER KING!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

I HURRIED HERE BECAUSE OF THAT...
...BUT THE SCHOLAR ISN'T HERE?
NOPE.
SHE WON'T BE BACK FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS.

SKWEEZE
WHO DOES THE CENTRAL CHURCH THINK THE SPIRITS OF LIGHT ARE?
GRIND
THEY'RE JUST USING THEM FOR SOPHISTRY!
WE WERE HOPING TO DEPEND ON HER WISDOM.
BUT IF SHE'S NOT HERE..
OLD MAN.
I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU FINISH YOUR SENTENCE.
BUT I'VE HEARD YOU HAVE A RING OF ILLUSION. WE COULD USE THAT TO...
WE COULD USE THAT TO...
BUT WHO WILL SAY IT IF I DON'T?

I'M SORRY.
MY LACK OF DISCRETION BROUGHT THIS UPON THE INNOCENT SCHOLAR.
HOWEVER, I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT ALL THE PEOPLE OF THIS KINGDOM.
I KNOW.
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.
SORRY.
OLDER MAID SISTER, IT'LL BE A BOTHER, BUT I NEED YOU TO GET CAUGHT.
YES, SIR.
THEN...
...I'LL RESCUE YOU SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE WINTER KINGDOM.
THEY'RE JUST CONVOY GUARDS OF THE INQUISITION. THEY SHOULD BE EASY TO DISPATCH.
IF YOU ESCAPE ONCE YOU'RE OUT OF THE WINTER KINGDOM, THE RESPONSIBILITY WILL FALL ON THEM.

YEAH.
I'LL HAVE TO LIE LOW FOR A WHILE...
...BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
HERO, YOU...
THAT'S ...
OH.
THIS TIME I'VE GOT THESE SISTERS, AND THE SCHOLAR WILL BE BACK EVENTUALLY.
AND THE CHIEF MAID
I'M SORRY.
THIS OLD FOOL HAS ALLOWED YOU TO BE LONELY AGAIN.
UGH.
THE AGRICULTURAL METHODS AND POTATOES ARE FORBIDDEN HERESIES.
THINGS ARE GOING TO BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT.
-WHAT WILL THEY DO WITHOUT THEIR PRIORESS?
WHO'S GOING TO SUPPORT THE FARMERS?
THE MONASTIC ORDER CAN...
I'LL GO WITH YOU...
...HERO!

SISTER.
THIS IS THE UGLINESS OF THE HUMAN WORLD.
IF ONLY I WERE THE ONLY ONE.
GRIND
IT WILL MEAN MAKING YOU HANDLE EVERYTHING YOURSELF AGAIN, HERO.
HUG
ARE WE GOING TO MOVE?
DO WE HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO EVERY-ONE IN THE VILLAGE?

HERO.
WITH YOUR STRENGTH, WE HAVE NO NEED TO FEAR THE ARMIES OF THE HOLY CAPITAL.
UNFORTU-NATELY, MY OWNER WON'T ALLOW ME TO DO THAT.
BESIDES, I'M SICK OF DOING THINGS THAT WAY TOO.
FIGHT-ING AND WINNING, DEFEAT-ING AND TAKING...
PAT
...BUT I WON'T LET ANY-ONE TAKE THINGS FROM US.

IT'LL BE FINE. JOURNEYS CAN BE FUN.
HA HA HA
YOU CAN EAT ALL THE DELICIOUS THINGS IN THE WORLD.
WOW
SO DON'T WORRY AND GO TO SLEEP.
BUT THE VILLAGE..
THAT'S RIGHT. I'LL PROTECT YOUR SISTER.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING...
HUH?
GOOD NIGHT.
NOTH-ING. I WAS JUST THINKING YOU'RE KIND.
WHAT IS IT?

YES.
I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT.
AFTER ALL, I'M A HERO.
I'M WILLING TO PROTECT MOST PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE IN TROUBLE.

WELL, YEAH.
I GUESS.

YOU WOULD HELP ME IF I WERE IN TROUBLE, WOULDN'T YOU?

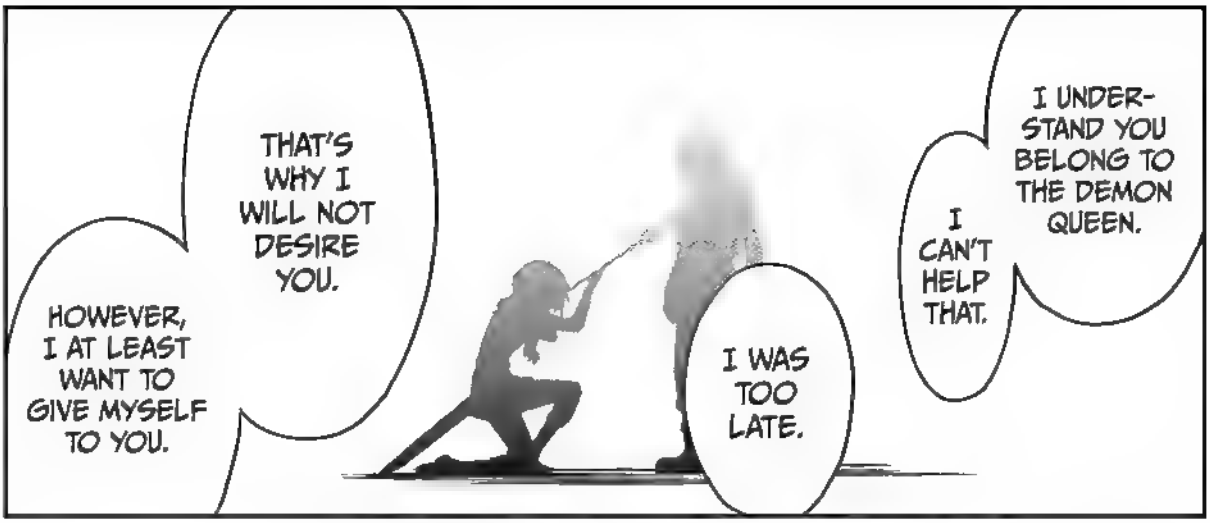
YOU WON'T GET ANY-THING OUT OF ME WITH COMPLI-MENTS.
THAT'S NOT MEANT TO BE A COMPLI-MENT.

OF COURSE.

YOU SHOULD LEARN TO BE MORE OBSERVANT.
?
?
WHAT?
WHY WOULD YOU MENTION THAT?
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
YOU BELONG TO THE DEMON QUEEN, DON'T YOU?
ARE YOU SURE?

SERI-OUSLY?
I'D BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT ANYTHING YOU'D GIVE ME.
BUT I HATE TO ONLY BE ON THE RECEIVING END.
I WANT TO GIVE YOU SOME-THING TOO.
I CAN'T JUST LET YOU PROTECT ME.

...THE LAKESIDE KINGDOM, I RECEIVED THE GRACE OF THE SPIRITS AND BECAME A SERVANT OF THE LIFE GIVING LIGHT.
IN...
WITH THIS SWORD, I GIVE TO YOU EVERY-THING I AM, HERO.
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THIS NOW?
BECAUSE NOW IS THE TIME.
WAIT, FEMALE KNIGHT.
I WON'T WAIT.
THIS SWORD BELONGS TO YOU.


I UNDERSTAND YOU BELONG TO THE DEMON QUEEN.
I CAN'T HELP THAT.
I WAS TOO LATE.
THAT'S WHY I WILL NOT DESIRE YOU.
HOWEVER, I AT LEAST WANT TO GIVE MYSELF TO YOU.

NO MATTER HOW FAR APART YOU MAY BE, YOU BELONG TO THE DEMON QUEEN, AND SHE BELONGS TO YOU.
I ALSO DESIRE AN EMOTIONAL BOND THAT WILL NEVER ALLOW US TO BE SEPARATED.

IF THE TWO OF YOU ARE HEADING INTO THE FUTURE, I AT LEAST WANT A PLACE WHERE I BELONG SOMEWHERE NEARBY.
I DON'T ...
I DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT BEHIND ANYMORE.

LIFT

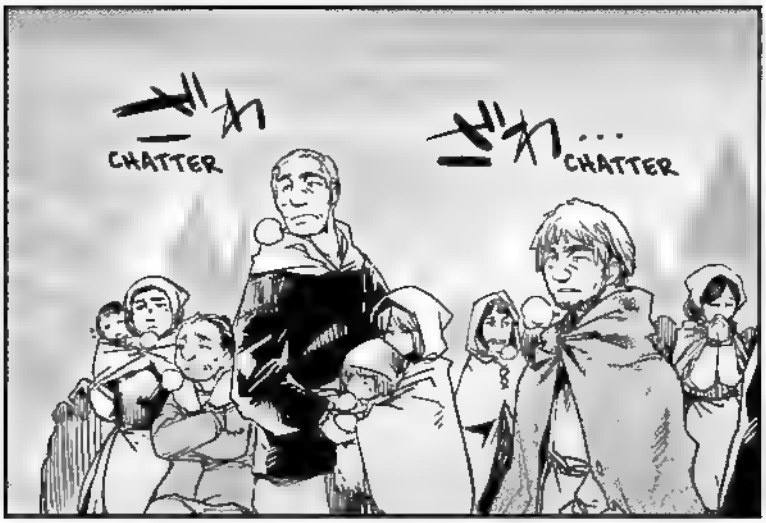
CLINK

SWISH

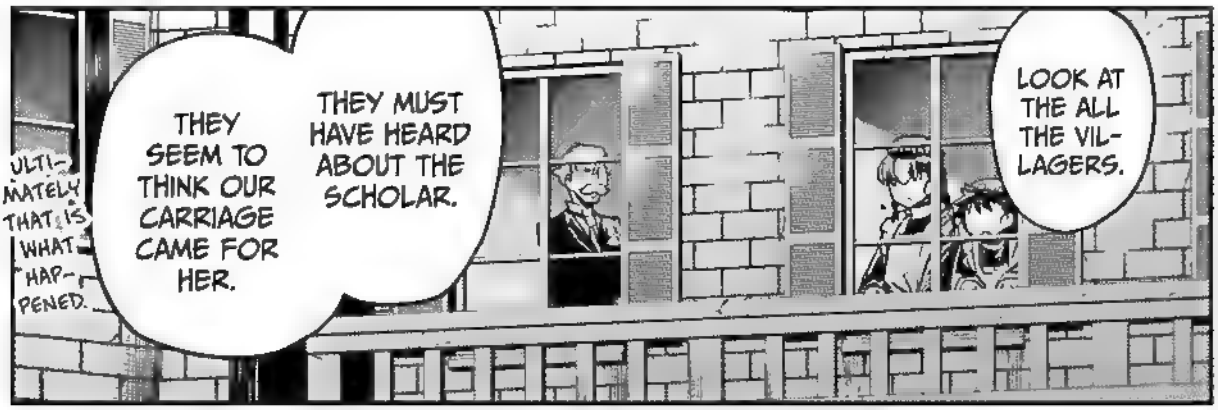
THEN I DO THIS, RIGHT?

YES.

I FEEL SO WARM!
YEAH!
FOR SOME REASON I FEEL REALLY SATISFIED!
SLASH
SLASH
NOW MY SWORD BELONGS TO YOU.
I OFFER MY BODY AND SOUL TO YOU AS WELL.
NOW THAT I'VE OFFERED MYSELF TO YOU, YOU CAN'T RETURN IT!
RIGHT, RIGHT.
OH.
YEAH.
UMM
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE DEMON QUEEN.
WE'RE FRIENDS NOW.
I'M SURE SHE'LL UNDERSTAND IF WE'RE DIRECT WITH HER.


CHATTER
CHATTER...

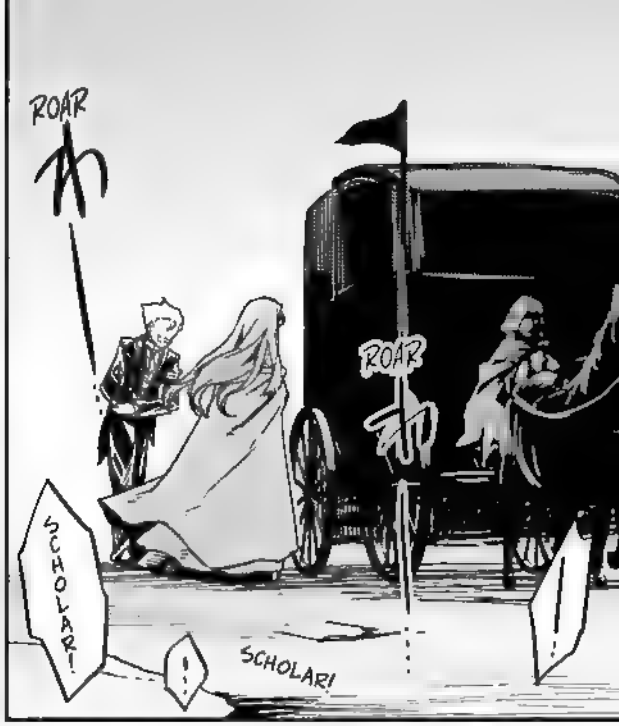
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER


LOOK AT THE ALL THE VIL-LAGERS.
THEY MUST HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE SCHOLAR.
THEY SEEM TO THINK OUR CARRIAGE CAME FOR HER.
ULTI-MATELY THAT IS WHAT HAP-PENED.

SHINE

YES, SIR.
I WILL TAKE ON THE SCHOLAR'S FORM UNTIL I ENTER THE CARRIAGE.
UNTIL WE HAND YOU OVER TO THE INQUISITOR, WE MUST ESCORT YOU.
I'M SORRY.
SLIP

MY GRAND-DAUGHTER WOULD'VE DIED IF NOT FOR THE SCHOLAR.
WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT POTATOES?
THEY SAID POTATOES ARE DEMON FOOD.
THE CHURCH? IT'S NOT THE CONVENT?
SOME GUYS FROM THE CHURCH WERE SHOUTING ABOUT IT.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S POSSIBLE!
ROAR
IS THIS SOME KIND OF MISTAKE?
WE BELIEVE IN YOU!
SCHOLAR!
SCHOLAR!
CLICK


ROAR
ROAR
SCHOLAR!
SCHOLAR!

CLANG
AAH

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW?

CLATTER
CLUNK

THE SCHOLAR IS WELL LIKED.
HISS
YES.
THAT WAS QUITE A CROWD.
SERI-OUSLY?
AMAZING!
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PIONEERS AND FARMERS WHO ACTUALLY BELIEVE SHE'S A GOD.
WHEN MY SISTER AND I WALK THROUGH THE VILLAGE...
IS THAT THE ISSUE HERE?
IF MY BREASTS WERE A LITTLE LARGER...

...EVERYONE SPEAKS TO US WITH SMILES.
CLATTER
CLATTER
THERE WASN'T A DAY AT THAT MANSION...
...THE MEALS DIDN'T INCLUDE SOMETHING FROM THOSE VILLAGERS.
THEY GIVE US BERRIES AND EGGS.
THEY HARVESTED ALL THESE POTATOES THIS SPRING.
THE WHEAT IS COMING IN WELL THIS FALL.

EVERYONE'S SO KIND AND NICE MY SISTER AND I.
THEY THANK US FOR HELPING THE MISTRESS...
...AND FOR GIVING THEM POTATOES.
THEY LET US TOUCH THE SMALL HANDS OF BABIES...
...SO THEY'LL GROW UP SMART AND KIND.
THEY SAY ALL THIS TO ME, A FORMER SERF...
...JUST BECAUSE I WORK FOR THE MISTRESS.

CLATTER
RUSTLE
CLUNK
I'M A LITTLE SAD TO LEAVE THEM.
SORRY FOR FORCING THIS RESPONSIBILITY ON YOU.
I'LL RESCUE YOU SOON.
YES, MA'AM.
I'M SURE YOU'LL MEET MORE NICE PEOPLE AT YOUR NEXT HOME.
COVER
NO. IT'S NOTHING.
HUH?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
CLATTER
CLUNK
IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO ARRIVE IN THE HOLY CAPITAL.
THE RIDE IS BUMPY, BUT YOU SHOULD TRY TO SLEEP.

THE END

Chapter 13
I Don't Want to be Left Behind Anymore

THE REALITY of the INQUISITION BORN in the MIDDLE AGES

The inquisition eliminated those with different thoughts and beliefs and were sometimes used for political uses.

Against the great power of the church, even the Lonely Winter King must act with caution.

INQUISITIONS USED AS A METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION AND RULE

The inquisition is a system the Catholic church has used since the Middle Ages to punish those suspected of committing heresies. Though what constitutes a heresy is different between the eras, it is mostly accurate to consider it any belief or doctrine different from orthodox teachings.

The inquisition became active during 11th Century, when the influence of Southern France's Cathars grew. The beliefs of the Cathars were incredibly strict, and at first the Pope (leader of the Catholic church) amicably attempted to return them to the Catholic church.

However, the landowners and bishops of Southern France did not wish for the influence of the Pope to extend to their territory and supported the Cathars. What was originally an internal issue of the church became a political issue and even escalated to war between the king of France, who wished to extend his rule throughout Southern France, and the local landowners.

At this time, the Catholic church published a papal bull and the inquisition began. Though it began as peaceful patrols conducted by bishops, eventually landowners began executing those they determined to be guilty, and the system grew more severe. Among the inquisitions, the Spanish Inquisition was considered particularly politically motivated.

In the 15th Century, Spain had just recently been united, and there were many Muslims and Jews who had merely converted to Catholicism in form only. In order to further unify his nation, the Spanish king acquired permission from the Pope to conduct an independent inquisition. In addition to planning to unite Spain by expelling the Muslims and Jews, he also persecuted Jewish moneylenders in an attempt to escape from debt. As a result, about 2,000 people were executed, and inquisitions came to be viewed as horrifying.

Though witch hunts are often mentioned in conjunction with the inquisition, while inquisitions refer only to the punishment of heretics within Christian communities, the targets of witch hunts are non-Christians, and the two are fundamentally different.

CENTRAL CHURCH OF THE LIGHT INQUISITOR.
SO IT SAYS.
BASED ON ACCUSA-TIONS AND THE AFORE-MENTIONED DOUBTS...
..THERE IS AMPLE REASON TO SUSPECT THE CRIMSON SCHOLAR OF HERESY

In order to reduce the power of the Southern Kingdoms, the church attempted to use an inquisition to eliminate the Scholar.

THE LAST MAN

I DON'T LIKE THIS...
...BUT I CAN'T IGNORE A FORMAL REQUEST FROM THE CHURCH.
CRINKLE
IRON FIST KING! WE ARE READY TO LEAVE!
GOOD.
RUSTLE
CLANK
I KNOW YOU WERE JUST RECENTLY APPOINTED, AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT...
...BUT THE REST IS UP TO YOU NOW.
TURN
YES, SIR!
I UNDER-STAND, SIR.

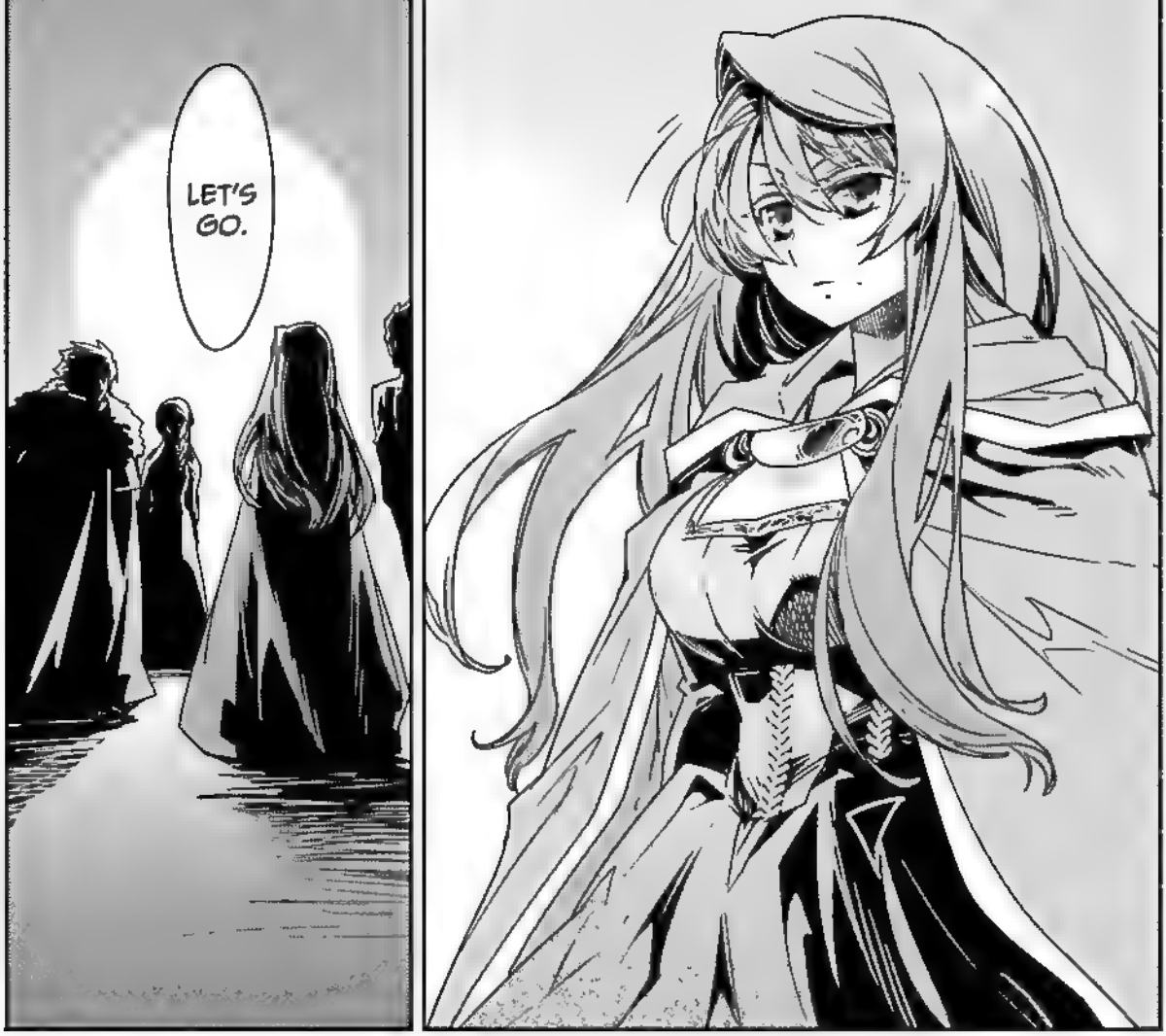
CHATTER
CHATTER

THAT'S THE ENVOY, HUH?
CHATTER
CHATTER
OOH
STEP

THEY'RE EVEN COMING FROM NEARBY TOWNS.
A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE GATHERED.
WE SHOULD INCREASE SECURITY.
CHATTER
CHATTER

I'M BEING FORCED TO ATTEND AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONVENT.
YOU'RE HANDING HER OVER IN SUCH A CONSPICUOUS PLACE?
YEAH.
THEY WANT HER TO SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.
IT'S INFURIATING
MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 14

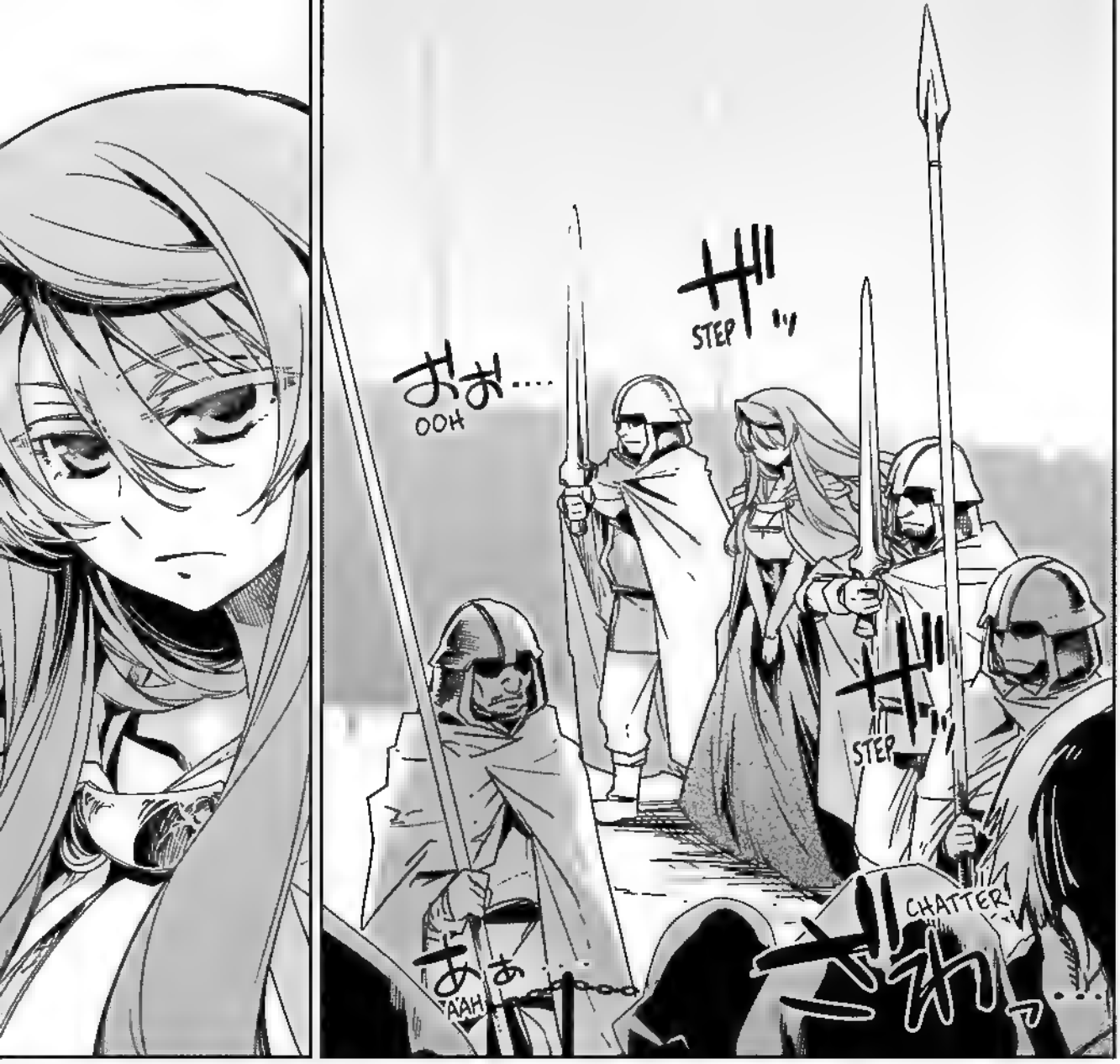
YES, SIR.
SLIP
IT'S NEARLY TIME.
I'M SORRY, BUT...
GLOW
FLASH



CHAPTER 14 Archenemy and Hero

Because I am "Human"

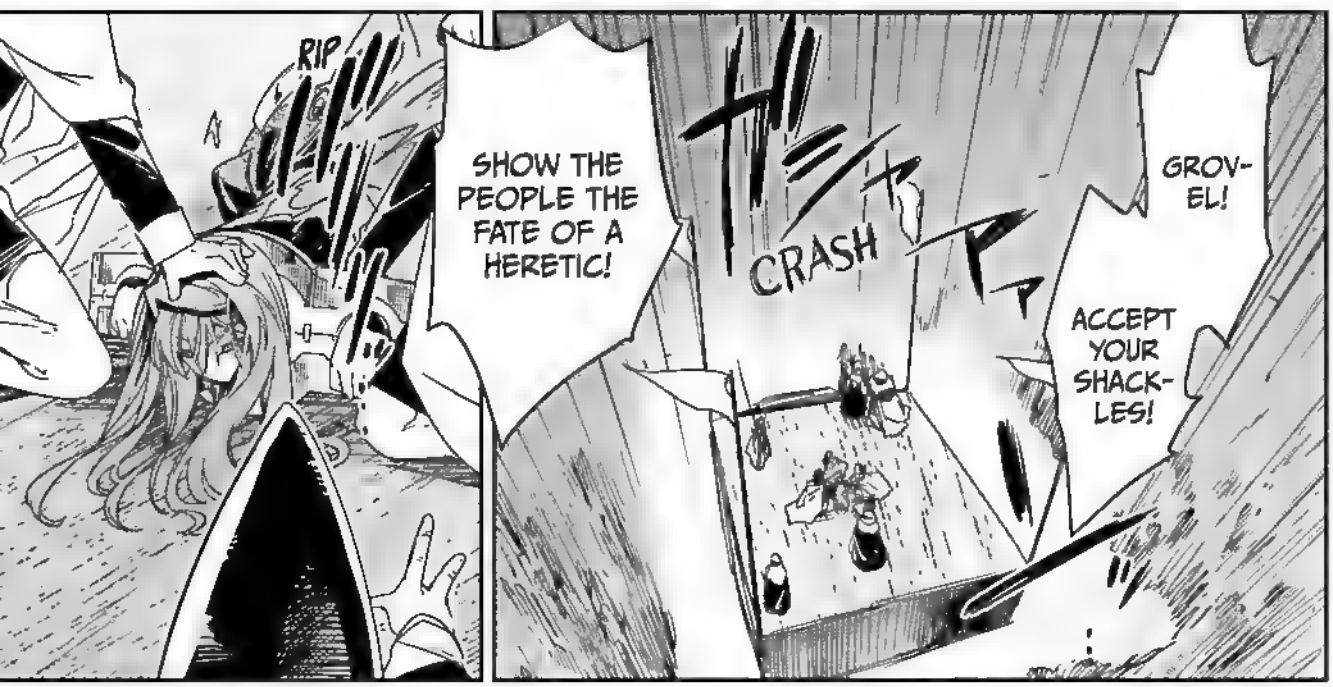
ENVOY, YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED FROM YOUR LONG JOURNEY FROM THE HOLY CAPITAL.
I AM THE LONELY WINTER KING OF THE WINTER KINGDOM.
STEP
STEP
CHATTER
HAVE YOU ARRESTED HER?
THERE IS NO NEED FOR SPEECHES.
CHATTER
STEP


おお....
OOH
STEP
STEP
あぁ
AAH
CHATTER!

THERE'S NO WAY THE SCHOLAR COMMITTED HERESIES!
SPIRITS, HAVE MERCY!
I HAD THE SCHOLAR LOOK AT MY PIGS TOO.
SHE TAUGHT MY SON ABOUT FARMING.
YEAH.
THAT'S DEFINITE-LY THE SCHOL-AR!

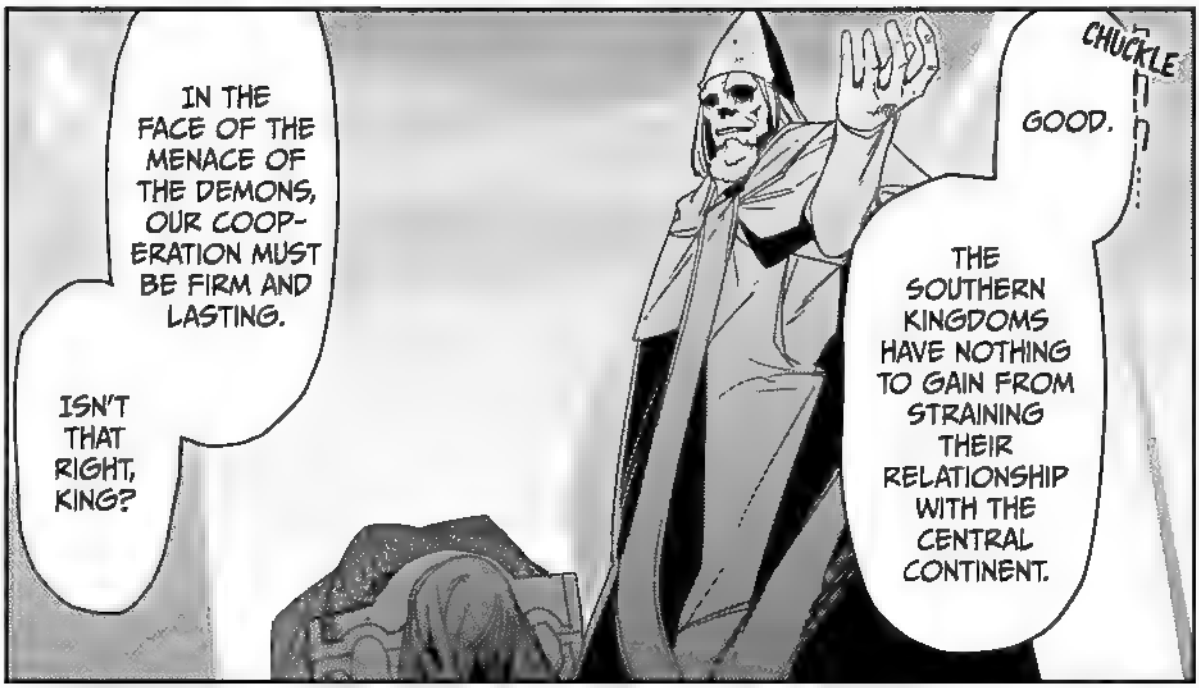
YES.
SURE.
SHE SEEMS TO BE THE CRIMSON SCHOLAR HERSELF.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.
IT'S HER
I'M SURE OF IT
WHISPER
WHISPER
WELL?
THIS PERSON ...

MURMUR
CHATTER
YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE PUNISHED!
WHACK
HOW DARE YOU TAKE THAT ATTITUDE!
SWISH


RIP
SHOW THE PEOPLE THE FATE OF A HERETIC!
CRASH
GROVEL!
ACCEPT YOUR SHACKLES!

STEP
I CAN SEE YOU NEED MORE PUNISHMENT!
SNAP
...EYES OF A HERETIC.
THOSE ARE THE DEFIANT ...

...
GRIT
CLINK
LONELY WINTER KING, FEMALE KNIGHT.
SURELY YOU DON'T SUPPORT THIS HERETIC?

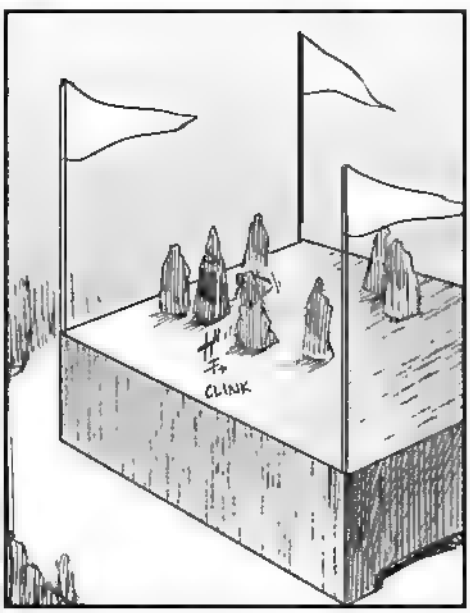

CHUCKLE
GOOD.
THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN FROM STRAINING THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CENTRAL CONTINENT.
IN THE FACE OF THE MENACE OF THE DEMONS, OUR COOP-ERATION MUST BE FIRM AND LASTING.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KING?

CHATTER
CHATTER
CLANK
URGH
CLENCH
GRIND

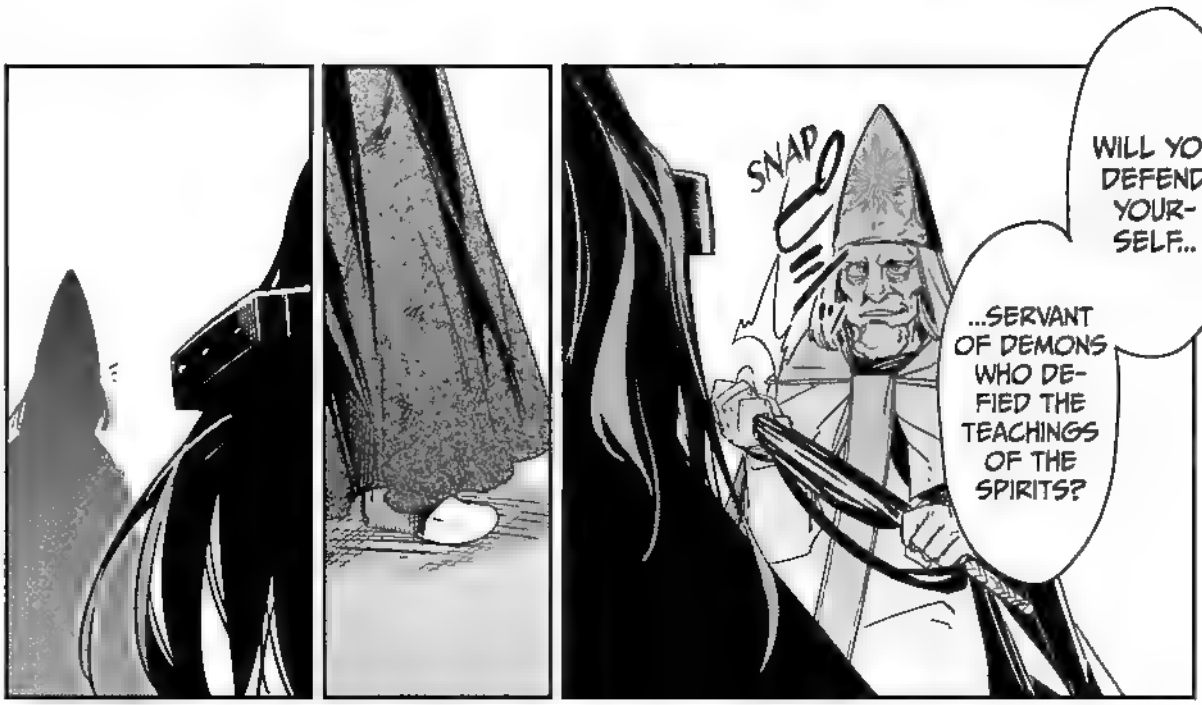
I CAN'T WATCH THIS ANY-MORE.
WHY ARE THEY HITTING HER?
DID SHE DO SOME-THING BAD?
CHATTER
SHE'S BLEED-ING SO MUCH.
CHATTER
SCHOL-AR.
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
SHE CAN'T BE A HERETIC.

CLINK
DAMN IT.
I WON'T LET THEM DO ANY-MORE!
WHO CARES ABOUT THE PLAN NOW?

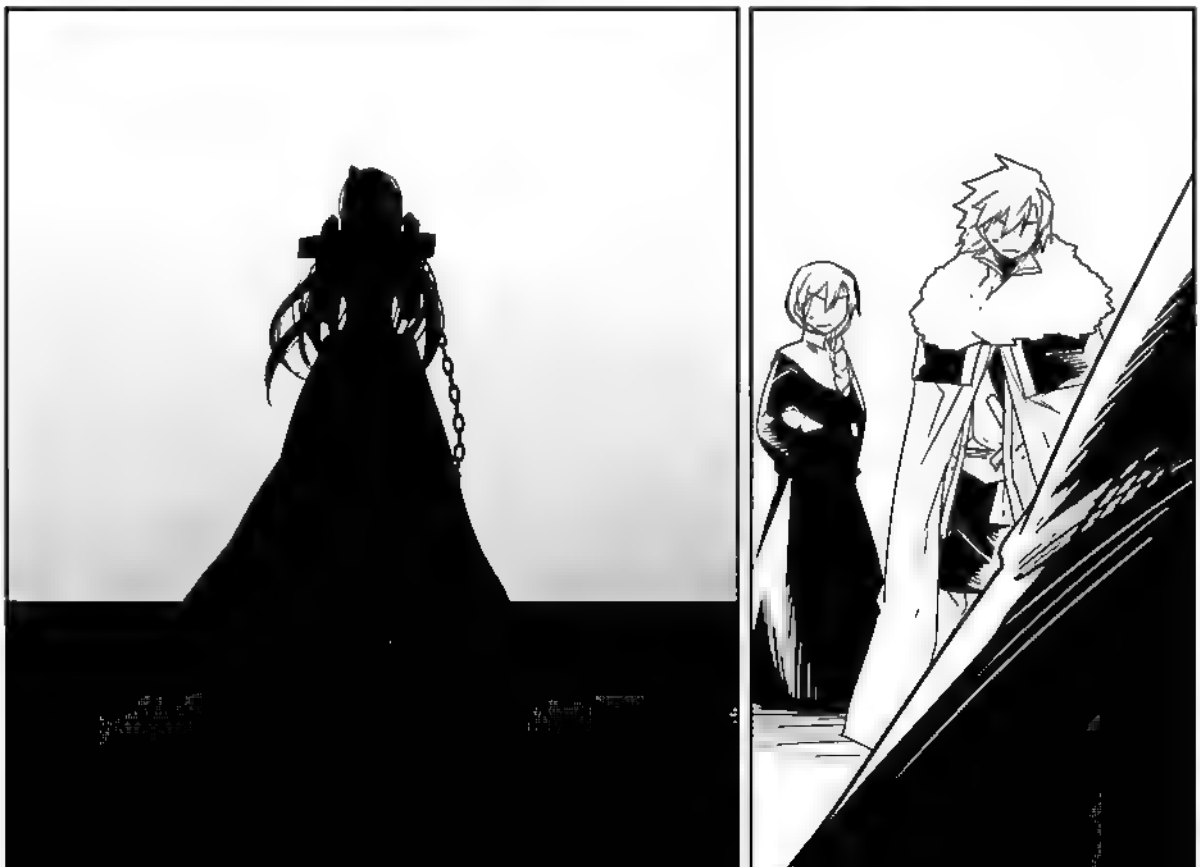
CLINK


CLINK

?
CLINK


SNAP
WILL YOU DEFEND YOURSELF..
...SERVANT OF DEMONS WHO DEFIED THE TEACHINGS OF THE SPIRITS?

CHATTER
CHATTER

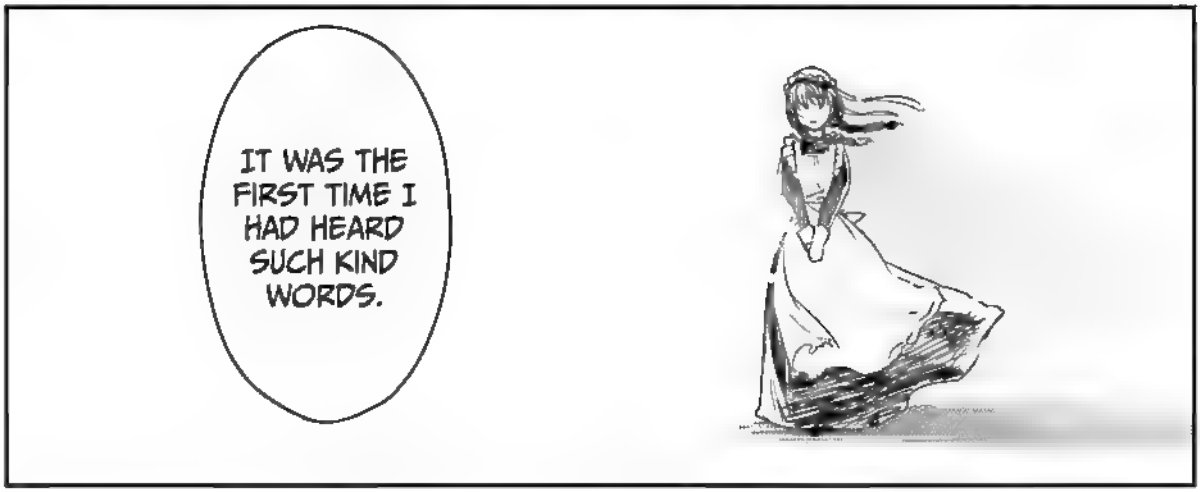


AS...
AS A CREATURE WITH A SOUL...
...THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST TELL YOU.

I...
...WAS BORN A SERF.
THE SCHOLAR?
IS IT TRUE?
CHATTER
SHE WAS A SERF LIKE US?
WHAT?
THE LIFE OF A SERF IS DIFFICULT.
THE LAND YOU CULTIVATE UNTIL YOUR HANDS BLEED IS NOT YOURS.
THE FRUITS OF THE LAND YOU ACQUIRE DO NOT BELONG TO YOU.
NOT EVEN YOUR OWN LIFE BELONGS TO YOU.

I WAS BORN THE THIRD OF SEVEN SIBLINGS...
...BUT ONLY MY YOUNGER SISTER AND I SURVIVED.
I COULD DO NOTHING FOR MY SIBLINGS WHO FELL TO INJURY, ILLNESS, AND HUNGER.
ONE DAY, WE ESCAPED AND REACHED A TURNING POINT.
THOUGH IT SHONE WITH THE BRIGHT-NESS OF DESTINY...
...I HAVE ALWAYS WON-DERED.
AL-WAYS.

FATE WAS WARM AND KIND TO ME.
IT TOLD ME NOT TO...
... WOR- RY.
THAT IT WOULD DO...
... SOME- THING.

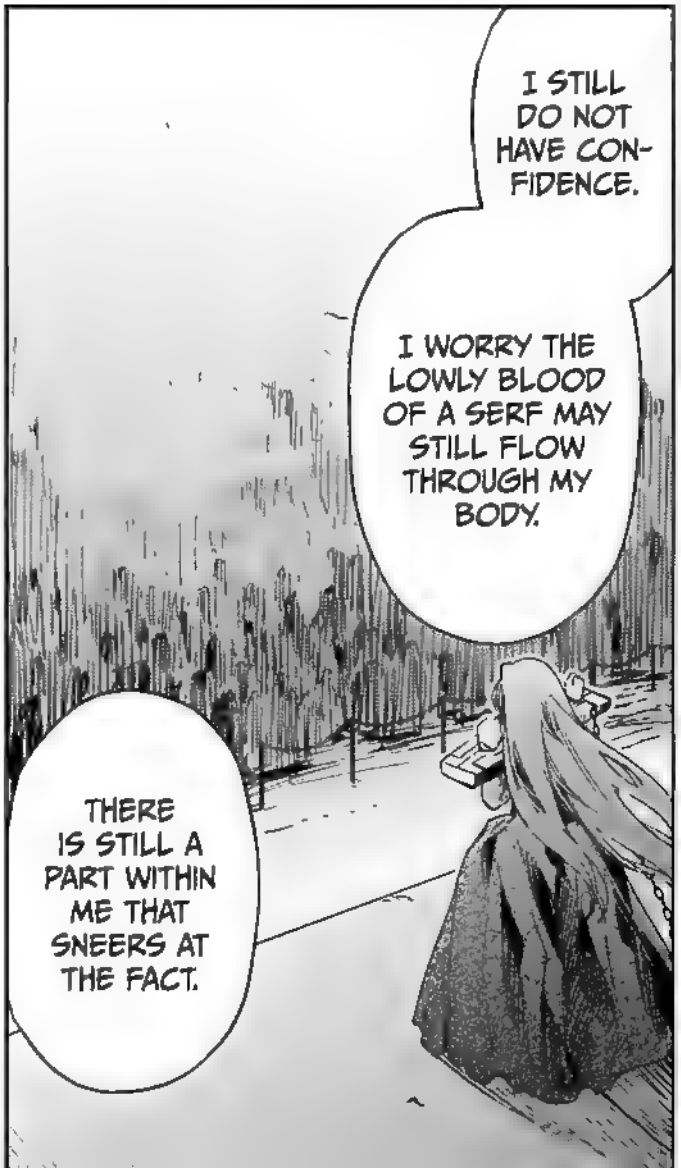

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD HEARD SUCH KIND WORDS.

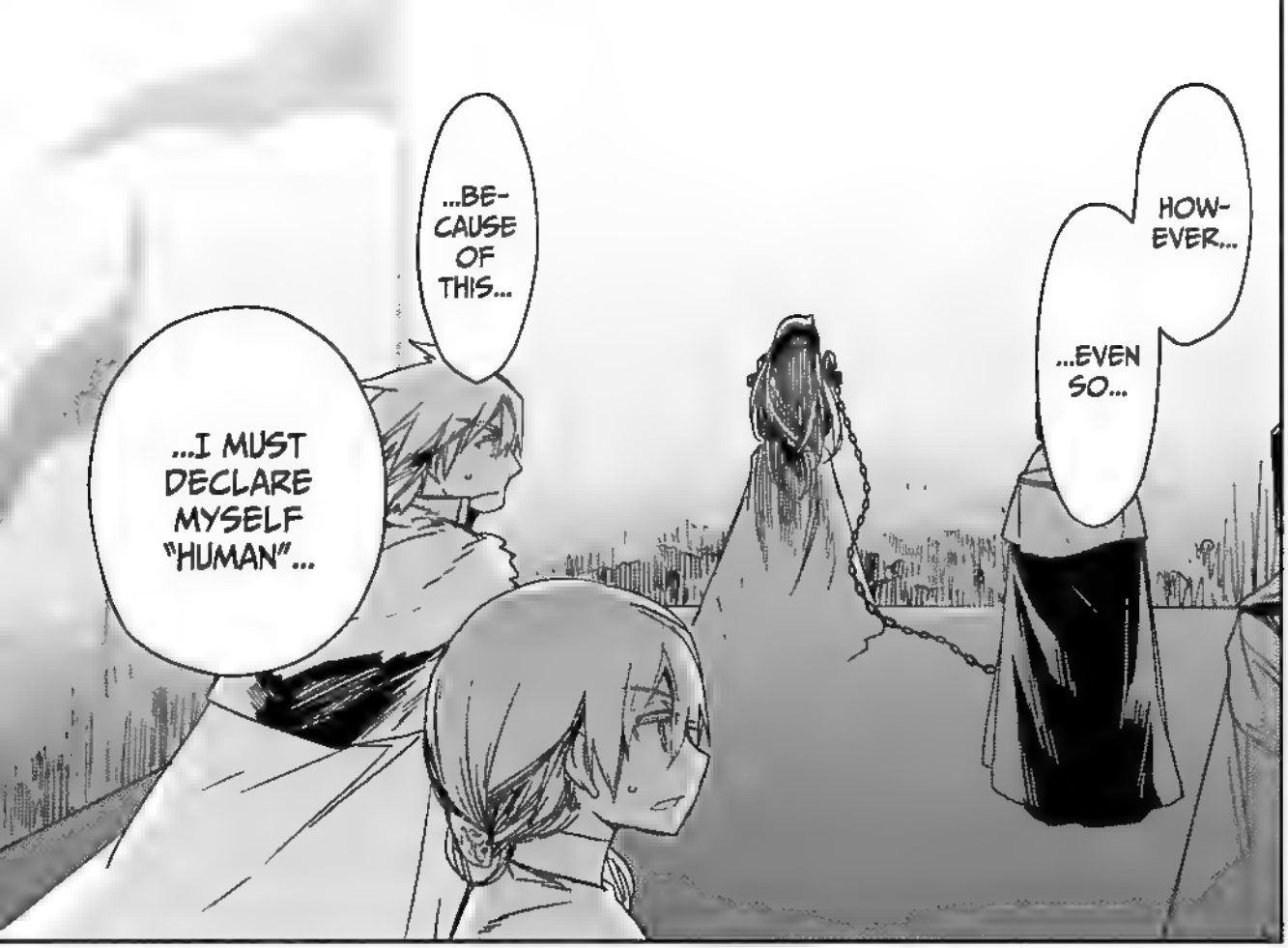
HOW- EVER...

...AND SERFS!
PIO-NEERS...
SOL-DIERS!
NOBLE-MEN!
I MUST REJECT IT.
THOUGH I OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE ...
...TO THE KIND HAND THAT REACHED OUT TO ME...

THOUGH IT WAS KIND TO ME...
BECAUSE IT WAS KIND TO ME...
...I MUST REJECT IT.
BECAUSE I...

BECAUSE
...
...I AM
"HUMAN."


I STILL DO NOT HAVE CONFIDENCE.
I WORRY THE LOWLY BLOOD OF A SERF MAY STILL FLOW THROUGH MY BODY.
THERE IS STILL A PART WITHIN ME THAT SNEERS AT THE FACT.


...I MUST DECLARE MYSELF "HUMAN"...
...BE-CAUSE OF THIS...
...EVEN SO...
HOW-EVER...

...BECAUSE I BELIEVE CALLING MYSELF THAT...
...IS THE FIRST CONDI-TION...
...FOR BEING "HUMAN."

YOU MUST NEVER...

...STOP DESIR-ING...

...WISH-ING...

...THINKING, OR WORKING.

IT IS PROOF YOU ARE A BELOVED CHILD OF THE SPIRITS OF LIGHT...

...AND A HUMAN.

...HAVE YOU EVER FELT WARMTH WITHIN YOUR HEART?

DO YOU EVER FEEL THE JOY OF SELFLESS KINDNESS?

LIKE THE SUMMER SUN THAT SHINES ON YOUR CHEEK...

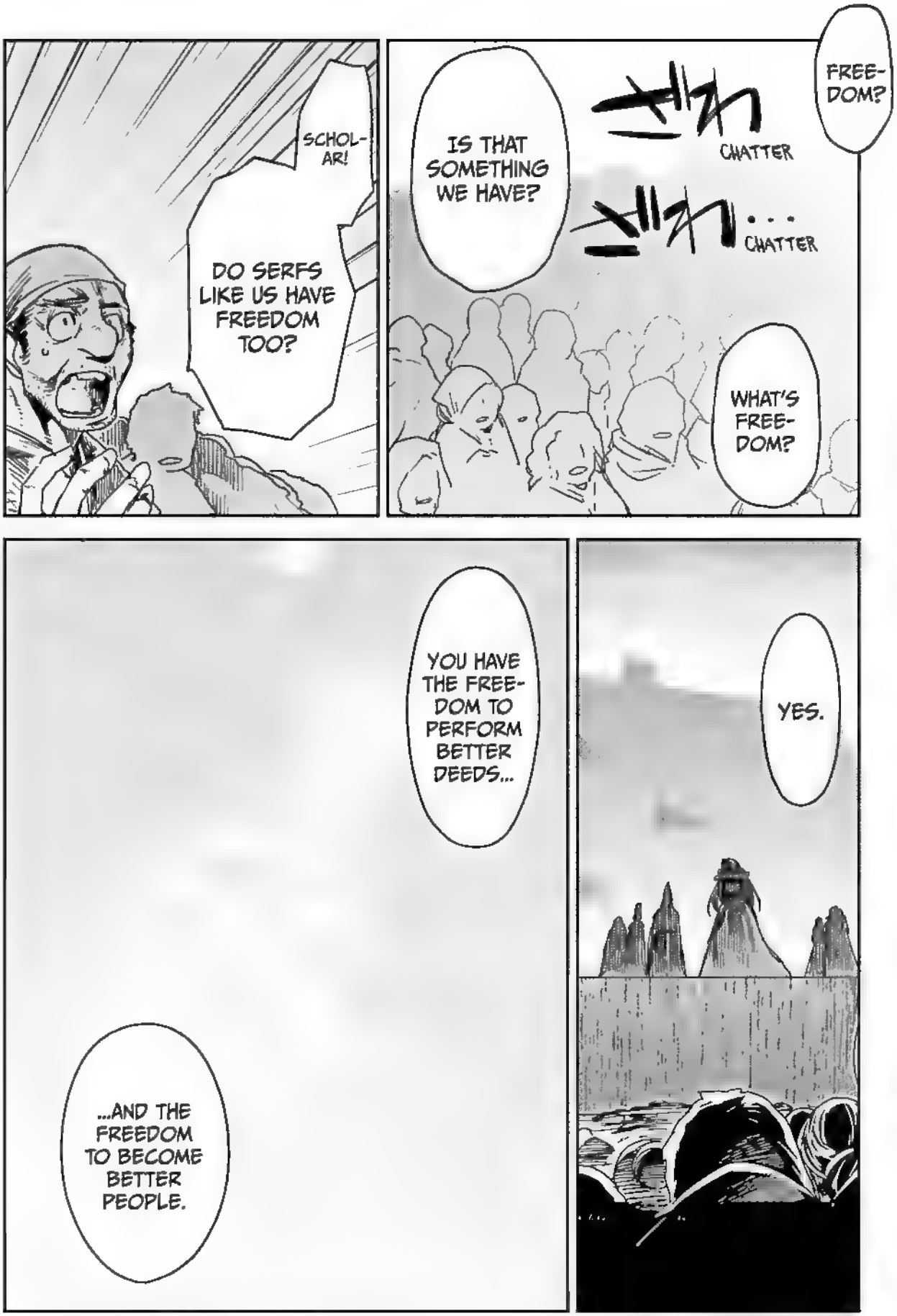
...WHOSE BLESSING YOU FEEL EVEN WHEN YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES...

LIKE THE SUMMER SUN THAT SHINES ON YOUR CHEEK...
...WHOSE BLESSING YOU FEEL EVEN WHEN YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES...
...HAVE YOU EVER FELT WARMTH WITHIN YOUR HEART?
DO YOU EVER FEEL THE JOY OF SELFLESS KINDNESS?

IT IS PROOF YOU ARE A BELOVED CHILD OF THE SPIRITS OF LIGHT...
...AND A HUMAN.
YOU MUST NEVER...
...STOP DESIR-ING...
...WISH-ING...
...THINKING, OR WORKING.

THEY GIVE US WEALTH THROUGH THE RICHES OF THE EARTH.
THE SPIRITS GIVE HUMANS LIFE THROUGH THESE MIRACLES.
THE SPIRITS ...
THROUGH THE PIECES OF THEIR SOULS...
...THEY GAVE US FREEDOM.
CRACK
CHATTER
FREE-DOM?
DID SHE SAY FREE-DOM?
CHATTER ...

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK OF THE SPIRITS WITH THE LOWLY MOUTH OF A SERF!
HER-ETIC!
WHIP
SWISH
CRACK
TWITCH
THIS ISN'T ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT I'M A HERETIC OR A SERF.
AS A HUMAN... AS ONE WHO HAS RECEIVED THE GIFTS OF THE EARTH...
...I AM SIMPLY SPEAKING TO MY KIND.


SCHOL-AR!
DO SERFS LIKE US HAVE FREEDOM TOO?
IS THAT SOMETHING WE HAVE?
CHATTER
CHATTER
FREE-DOM?
WHAT'S FREE-DOM?
YOU HAVE THE FREE-DOM TO PERFORM BETTER DEEDS...
...AND THE FREEDOM TO BECOME BETTER PEOPLE.
YES.

INSTEAD OF CREATING HUMANS WHO ARE PERFECTLY GOOD...
...THE SPIRITS GAVE US THE FREEDOM TO WORK A LITTLE HARDER EACH DAY...
...BE-CAUSE THAT...
...IS HAPPI-NESS.

...CAN DESECRATE THE TREASURE IN EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOUR HEARTS!

NOT EVEN A KING...

...OR THE CHURCH...

SO DON'T LET GO JUST BECAUSE IT'S EASY.

THE GIFT OF THE SPIRITS...

...THE FREEDOM IN YOUR HEARTS...

SO DON'T LET GO JUST BECAUSE IT'S EASY.
NOT EVEN A KING...
...OR THE CHURCH...
THE GIFT OF THE SPIRITS...
...THE FREEDOM IN YOUR HEARTS...

...CAN DESECRATE THE TREASURE IN EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOUR HEARTS!

WHIP!!!
HERETIC!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
....
SKWEEZE
I AM HUMAN!
I WILL NOT!
I WILL NEVER BECOME AN "INSECT" AGAIN!
I WILL NEVER ABANDON THAT TREASURE AGAIN!

EVEN IF HOLDING THAT TREASURE MAY CAUSE ME PAIN...
...I WILL NEVER RETURN TO THAT DARK SLUMBER.
BE-CAUSE THERE IS LIGHT...
BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN SHOWN KINDNESS!

CHATTER
CHATTER
HEY!
THROW ROCKS AT THIS HERETICAL WHORE!
PANT
TSK!
PANT
PANT
CITI-ZENS!
THROW ROCKS AT THIS PERSON TO SHUT HER UP!
FWIP
THOSE WHO DON'T THROW ROCKS ARE APOS-TATES!
CHATTER
IF YOU WANT TO THROW THEM, THROW THEM.
CLENCH
CHATTER
CHATTER
BUT...
SHOULD WE THROW ROCKS?

I WILL NOT BLAME YOU.
IF ANYTHING, AS YOUR FELLOW HUMAN, I WILL BE PROUD OF YOU.
TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILIES AND YOURSELVES...
...SOMETIMES YOU MUST THROW ROCKS.
SKWEEZE
IF YOU CAN SAVE ANYONE BY THROWING ROCKS, YOU SHOULD SAVE THEM.
CLENCH
HUMANS HAVE THE FREEDOM TO MAKE THAT DECISION.
MY BODY WILL SHED JUST AS MUCH BLOOD...
...AS THE BLOOD THAT FLOWS FROM YOUR HEARTS.

HOWEVER, IF YOU THROW ROCKS...
...BECAUSE SOMEONE TOLD YOU OR ORDERED YOU TO DO IT...
...THEN YOU ARE AN INSECT!
YOU ARE AN INSECT WHO HAS YIELDED THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF THE SPIRITS TO ANOTHER AND CEASED THINKING.
NO MATTER HOW EASY THAT PATH MAY BE, YOU ARE STILL AN INSECT WHO HAS GIVEN UP THEIR TREASURE.

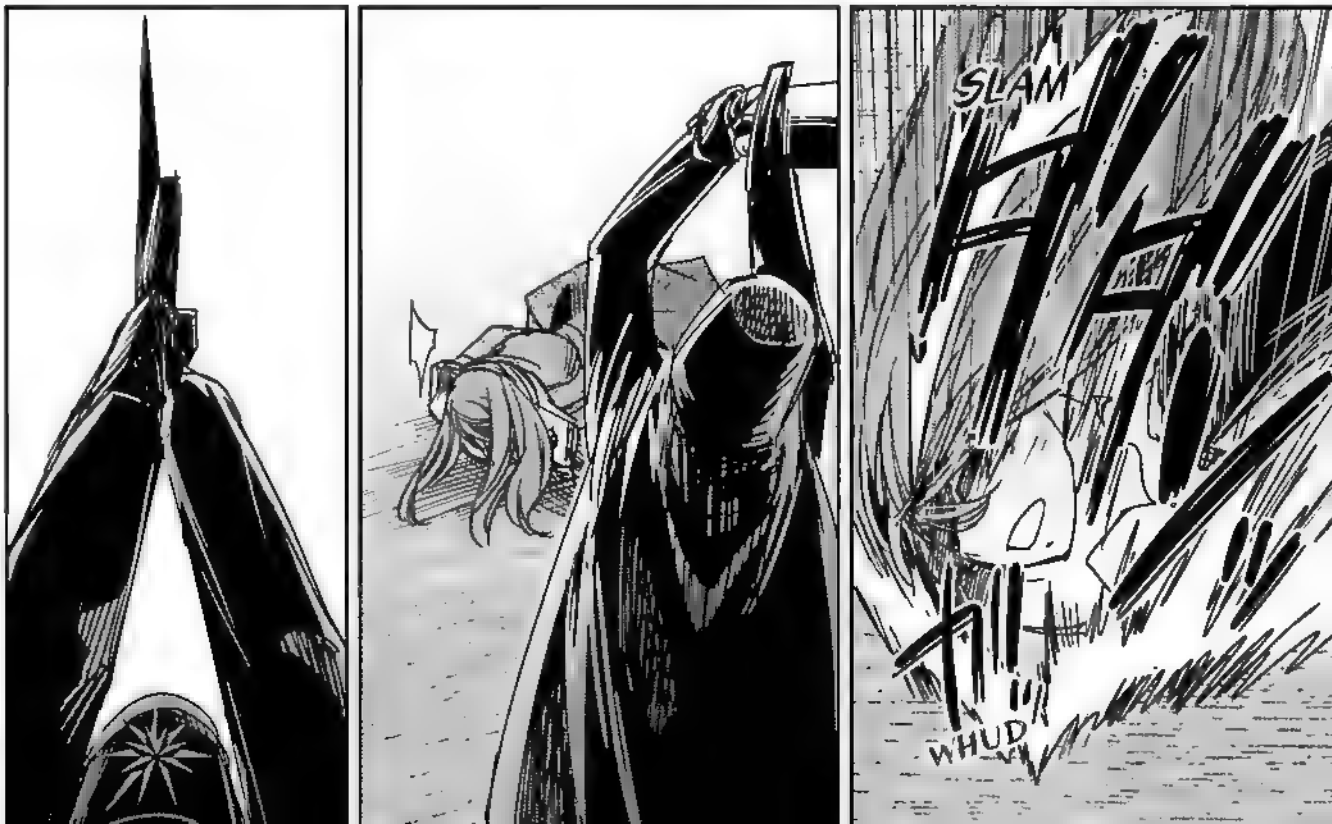
I WILL NOT BECOME AN INSECT...
...BECAUSE I AM A "HUMAN."

ENOUGH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THROW THEM! HIT HER!
SHOW HER HOW FOOLISH SHE TRULY IS!

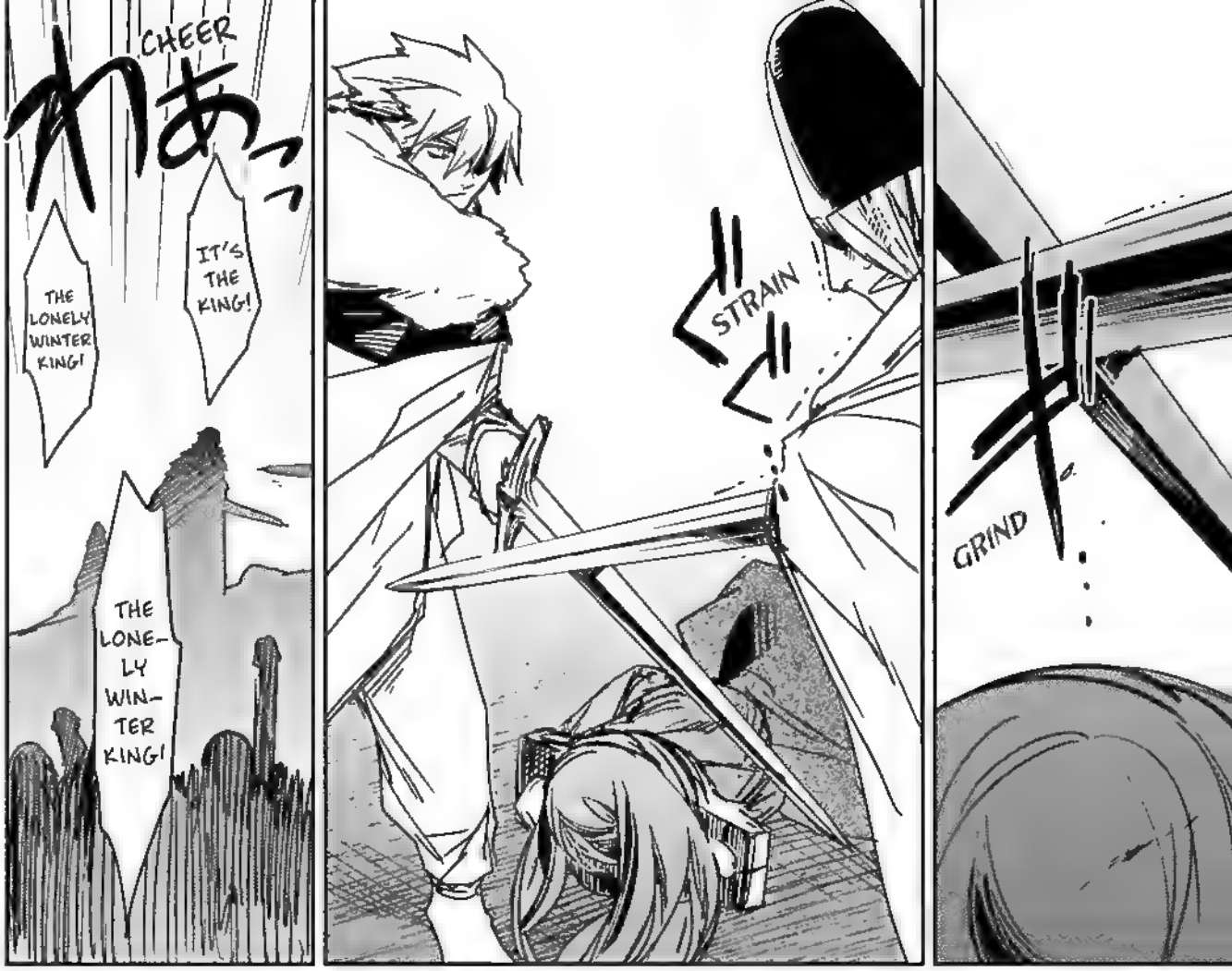
SWISH
TOSS
CLUNK
THUNK
CLUNK
BONK
?

STUPID COMMON-ERS!
YOU'RE ALL APOS-TATES!
CLINK
CLUNK
STOP!
THROW ROCKS AT THE FILTHY WOMAN!
THUNK
BONK
THUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK

CUT OFF HER HEAD!
SWISH
HER HERESY IS CLEAR!


SLAM
WHUD

THE SCHOL-AR!
THE SCHOL-AR'S WORDS!
I'M SORRY.
CHIEF MAID.
I NEVER GOT TO TELL YOU BEFORE...
WHACK
...BUT WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I CALLED YOU TEACHER?
THE HERO TOLD ME TO LEAVE IT TO HIM...
...BUT I COULDN'T DO IT.

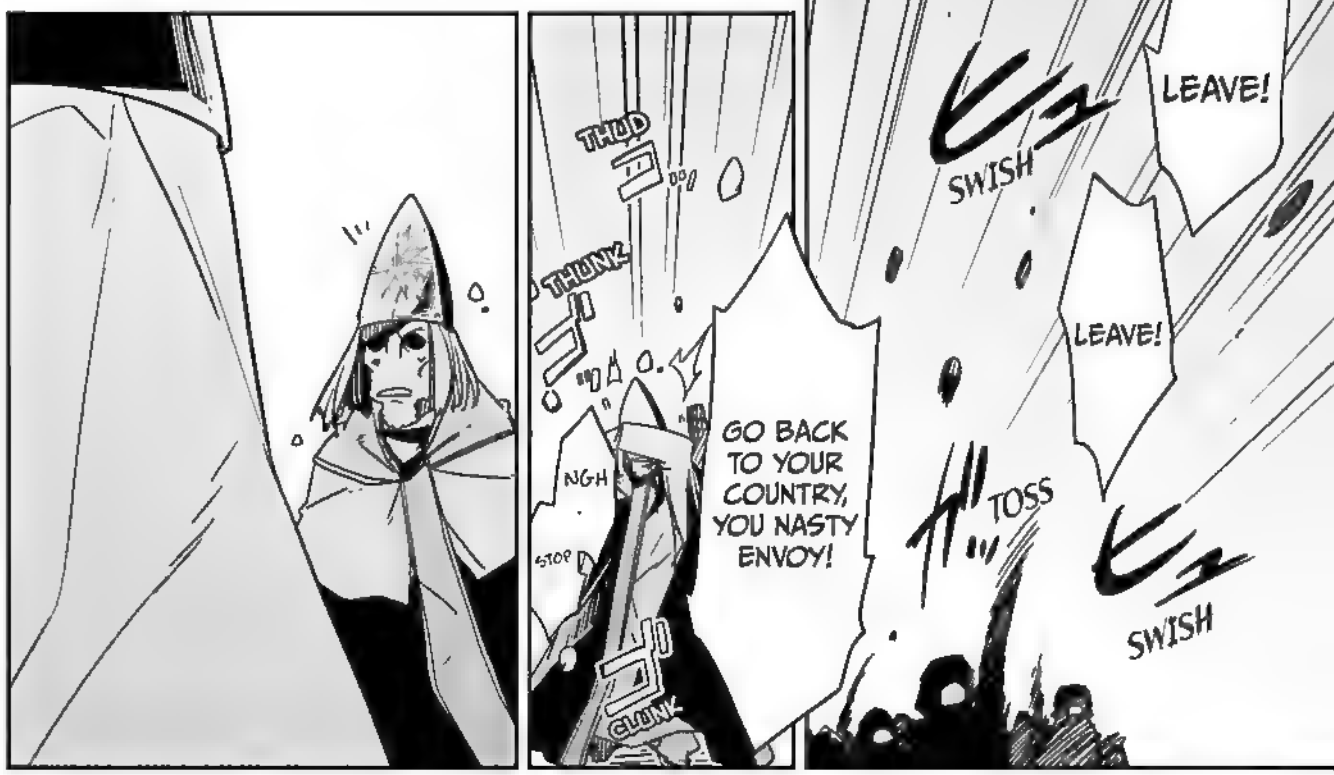

CHEER
IT'S THE KING!
THE LONELY WINTER KING!
THE LONE-LY WIN-TER KING!
STRAIN
GRIND

WHAT ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
DAMN YOU!
CRUMBLE
THE LADY GEN-ERAL!
CHEER
CAN YOU STAND ?
SWISH
GRAB

...BUT I AM A "HUMAN" FIRST.
I AM THE KING OF THIS NATION...
I LIVED AS THE PRINCE OF A KINGDOM THAT SERVED AS THE DOG OF THE CENTRAL CONTINENT.
I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD THE HARDSHIP, PAIN, AND HIDEOUS NATURE OF MY SITUATION...
...BUT AT SOME POINT, EVEN MY HEART HAD BECOME THAT OF AN INSECT.
FOR A GIRL LIKE HER TO HAVE TAUGHT ME...
...I AM ASHAMED OF MY OWN IGNO-RANCE.
AND...
...I AM PROUD OF THIS UNEXPECTED GROWTH IN THE HEARTS OF MY PEOPLE.
わぁ
CHEER
あぁ
ぁ

THE SPIRITS SAID...
...WE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR CRIMES...
...AFTER GIVING HUMANS THE FREEDOM TO COMMIT THEM.
WHAT ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE WINTER KINGDOM FORMALLY OFFERS ITS PROTECTION TO THE CRIMSON SCHOLAR.
THE LAKESIDE CONVENT RECOGNIZES THE CRIMSON SCHOLAR AS A SAINT.

CHEER
CHEER
CHEER
CHEER
THE KING PRO-TECTED THE SCHOL-AR!
THE LADY FROM THE CONVENT SAID SHE WAS A SAINT!
YEAH!
SHE'S A SAINT!
THE SCHOLAR ISN'T A HERETIC AFTER ALL!
OUR SCHOLAR IS A SAINT!


THUD
THUNK
NGH
STOP
CLUNK
GO BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY, YOU NASTY ENVOY!
SWISH
LEAVE!
LEAVE!
TOSS
SWISH

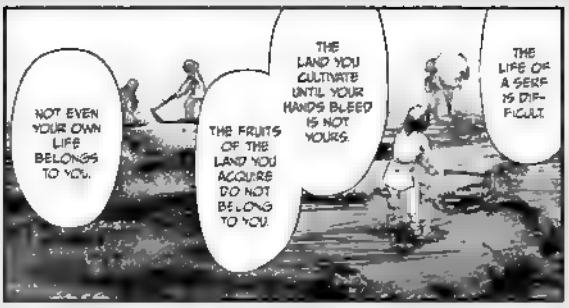
THOUGH THIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE INTENTION OF THE CHURCH...
...LET US MEET AGAIN UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUM-STANCES.
WE ASK THAT YOU LEAVE, ENVOY.

....
WE DID IT!
YAAAH
YEAH
YAAAH
DON'T THINK YOU CAN EXIST ON THIS EARTH AFTER DEFYING THE CENTRAL CHURCH!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
CLUNK
CLUNK
DASH
THUNK
DASH
DASH
THERE WASN'T ANYTHING FOR ME TO DO.
SHE REALLY IS AN AMAZING GIRL.
DEMON QUEEN.
THE OLDER MAID SISTER PULLED OFF SOMETHING INCREDIBLE.
DEMON QUEEN.
ARE YOU NOW FIGHTING A BATTLE ONLY YOU CAN FIGHT TOO?

UGH
...
AH
...
OH
...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
THE END
CHAPTER 14
Because I am "Human"

"SOCIAL CLASSES": THE INVISIBLE LINES SEPARATING PEOPLE

For those born into stratified societies, the existence of social standings is natural. It was difficult for them to arrive at the idea of overthrowing the system.


NOT EVEN YOUR OWN LIFE BELONGS TO YOU.
THE FRUITS OF THE LAND YOU ACQUIRE DO NOT BELONG TO YOU.
THE LAND YOU CULTIVATE UNTIL YOUR HANDS BLEED IS NOT YOURS.
THE LIFE OF A SERF IS DIFFICULT.

The lower levels of the established social classes consisted of farmers and serfs who composed over half the total population.

THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF DIVISION OF ROLES CREATED RIGID SOCIAL CLASSES

Medieval Europe, which *Maoyu* is based on, was a hierarchical society. Stratified societies formed according to the process described in volume 1 in the second period of this segment, with leaders of communities becoming landowners. Later, when nobility and kings were born, these classes became established under feudal systems.

Under feudal systems, social classes were largely divided into three ranks: "aristocracy and knights," "clergymen," and "peasants." However, because land primarily belonged to landowners, the majority of peasants were "serfs." Though serfs were allowed to own property, the majority of the crops they produced belonged to the landowners. They were not free to choose their profession, and the path to independence was virtually closed. Farmland was meaningless without someone to cultivate it. Landowners did not allow their serfs to become independent to secure their work force, and in exchange, landowners were responsible for protecting their serfs.

Even from a social standpoint, it is necessary to have someone produce crops. Just as the modern era has a hierarchical system of division of roles in the form of managers, hierarchical systems are useful for securing a certain number of personnel for a particular job. By the 18th Century when monetary systems began to develop, serfdom had been abolished, but this only happened because society had room to spare.

However, the long life of stratified societies did create several harmful effects, the greatest of which is discrimination based on social class. The lowest members of a stratified society always experience discontent. In many cases, a "bottom rung" was established outside the class system as an outlet for their discontent.

In the modern era, the "untouchables" at the very bottom of the Indian caste system who experience discrimination are the perfect example of this, and the discrimination against people of color by Caucasians contains similar elements.

The Older Maid Sister's argument on what's important to being human ignited a new light in the hearts of the people.

In *Maoyu*, the Older Maid Sister's serf class corresponds to this. One could argue her statements during her impeachment contain elements of the American Civil Rights Movement and India's Buddhist Revivalism. Her words had a great impact on the people for whom stratified societies had become natural, and it is possible it will become a major turning point in the story.

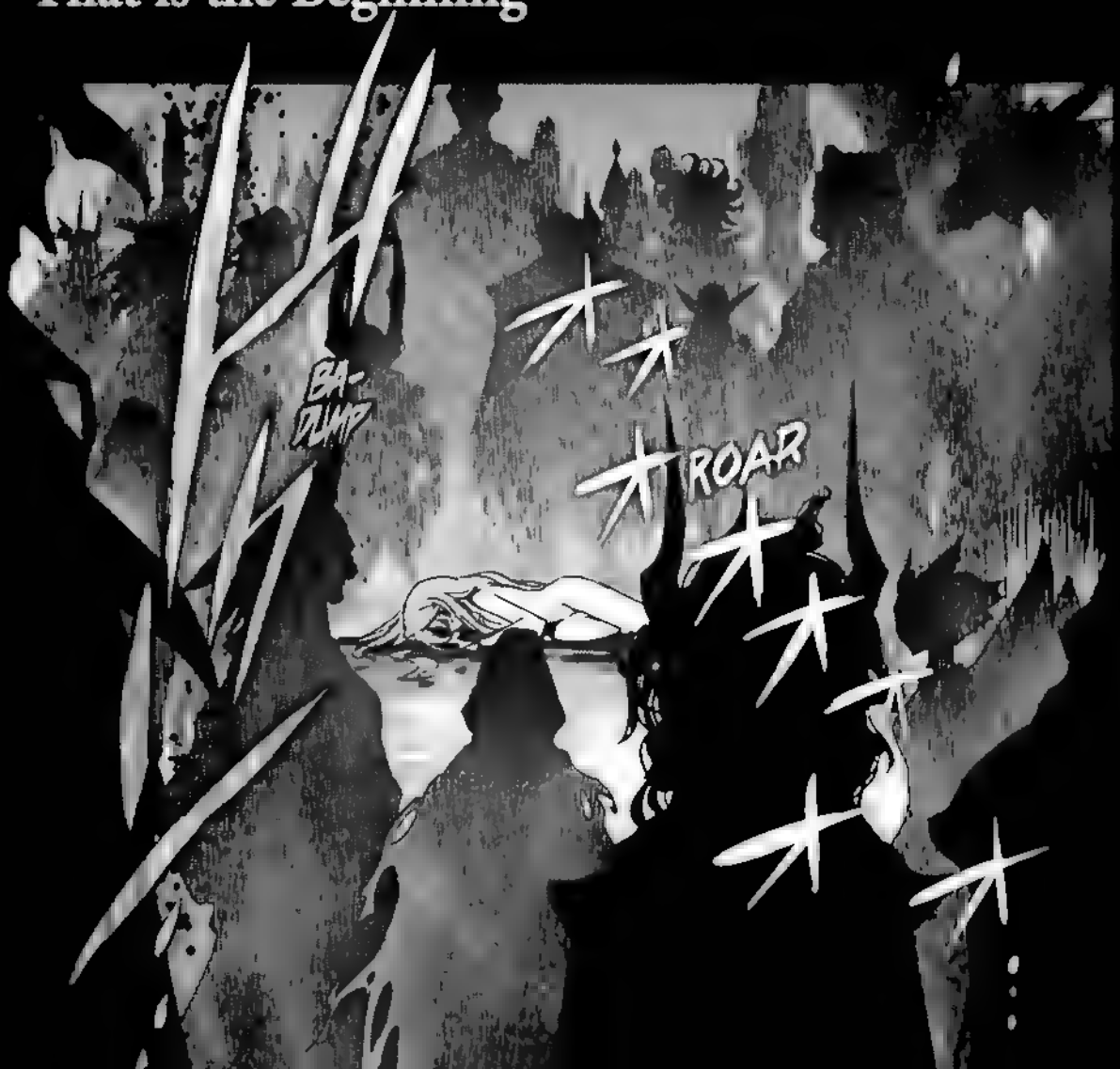
I WILL DO MY PART

MAOYU

Archenemy and Hero

CHAPTER 15

CHAPTER 15 Archenemy and Hero
That is the Beginning



THE SOULS OF ALL THE PREVIOUS DEMON KINGS AND QUEENS ARE SEALED INSIDE THE PALACE OF THE UNDER-WORLD.
THE DEMON QUEEN INHERITS THEIR WISDOM AND POWER TO ACHIEVE THE GREATEST STRENGTH...
...BUT AT THE SAME TIME, HER OWN SOUL BECOMES TAINTED.
KILL!
KILL!
KILL ALL THE HUMANS!
BRING THE ENTIRE WORLD UNDER DEMON CONTROL!

WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT, DEMON QUEEN?
YES, MA'AM.
BA-DUMP
UNTIL NOW, I'VE ENTERED ONLY A LITTLE TO PACIFY THE SOULS OF THE DEMON KINGS...
...BUT IN THE TWO YEARS I'VE ABANDONED THEM, THEY'VE GROWN WILD.
I WON'T LET THEIR RESIDUAL THOUGHTS TAKE OVER ME.
HOW-EVER, IF...
BA-DUMP
AH!
URGH...
BA-DUMP
ROAR

...WHEN I EXIT THIS PLACE...
...IF I AM NOT MYSELF ...
YES, MA'AM.
I WILL DESTROY THAT "DEMON QUEEN"...
...EVEN IF IT MEANS MY LIFE.
BA-DUMP
ROAR

WHOOSH

MY BODY AND SOUL...

EVERY-THING I AM...

BA-DUMP

THAT IS OUR CONTRACT.

BA-DUMP

ROAR

WHOOSH

I'M SORRY...

...BUT I'VE ALREADY BEEN SOLD.

BA-DUMP

ROAR

STEAL!

KILL!

ACCEPT THE POWER OF THE DEMON KINGS INTO YOUR "VESSEL"!

BA-DUMP

WE WILL GIVE YOU CLAWS TO TEAR THROUGH METAL!

WHOOSH

WE WILL GIVE YOU BREATH TO SCORCH THE LAND!

I'M SORRY...
...BUT I'VE ALREADY BEEN SOLD.
WHOOSH
BA-DUMP
ROAR
KILL!
STEAL!
ACCEPT THE POWER OF THE DEMON KINGS INTO YOUR "VESSEL"!
BA-DUMP
WE WILL GIVE YOU CLAWS TO TEAR THROUGH METAL!
WHOOSH
WE WILL GIVE YOU BREATH TO SCORCH THE LAND!

WHOOSH
BA-DUMP
MY BODY AND SOUL...
EVERY-THING I AM...
BA-DUMP
ROAR
THAT IS OUR CONTRACT.

THE HERO'S BLACK HAIR...
...IS FLUFFY, YOU KNOW?
BA-DUMP
WHOOSH
IT'S WARM LIKE THE SUN.
ROAR

AW.
SHEESH.
TOUSLE
TOUSLE
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

I'M...
I'M SORRY.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO QUIETLY ALLOW MYSELF TO BE APPREHENDED, BUT I...
TOUSLE
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
IF ANY-THING, YOU HAD THE HARDEST JOB.
I'M TALKING ABOUT...
GLANCE
WHAT'S WRONG, HERO? ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOME-THING?
HA HA HA
DON'T WORRY, YOU HAVE ME!
MY, HOW DELICIOUS.
IS THIS THIS KING-DOM'S FOOD?
HEH HEH
IT'S FRIED BACON AND POTATOES WITH CHEESE!
THIS IS DELI-CIOUS!
IT'S GREAT WITH LIQUOR!
HA HA HA

WHY ARE YOU HOLDING A DRINKING PARTY HERE?
AND WHY ARE THERE MORE MONARCHS?
ガゆゆゆ
HA HA HA HA
ぼ!
BANG

HOW SHAME-FUL.
WE WERE SUMMONED TO THE SCHOLAR'S ARREST TOO.
THEY INTEND-ED TO MAKE AN EXAM-PLE OF HER.
NOW, NOW.
SIP
IN THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS, WE CONSIDER THIS A MODEST CELEBRA-TION.

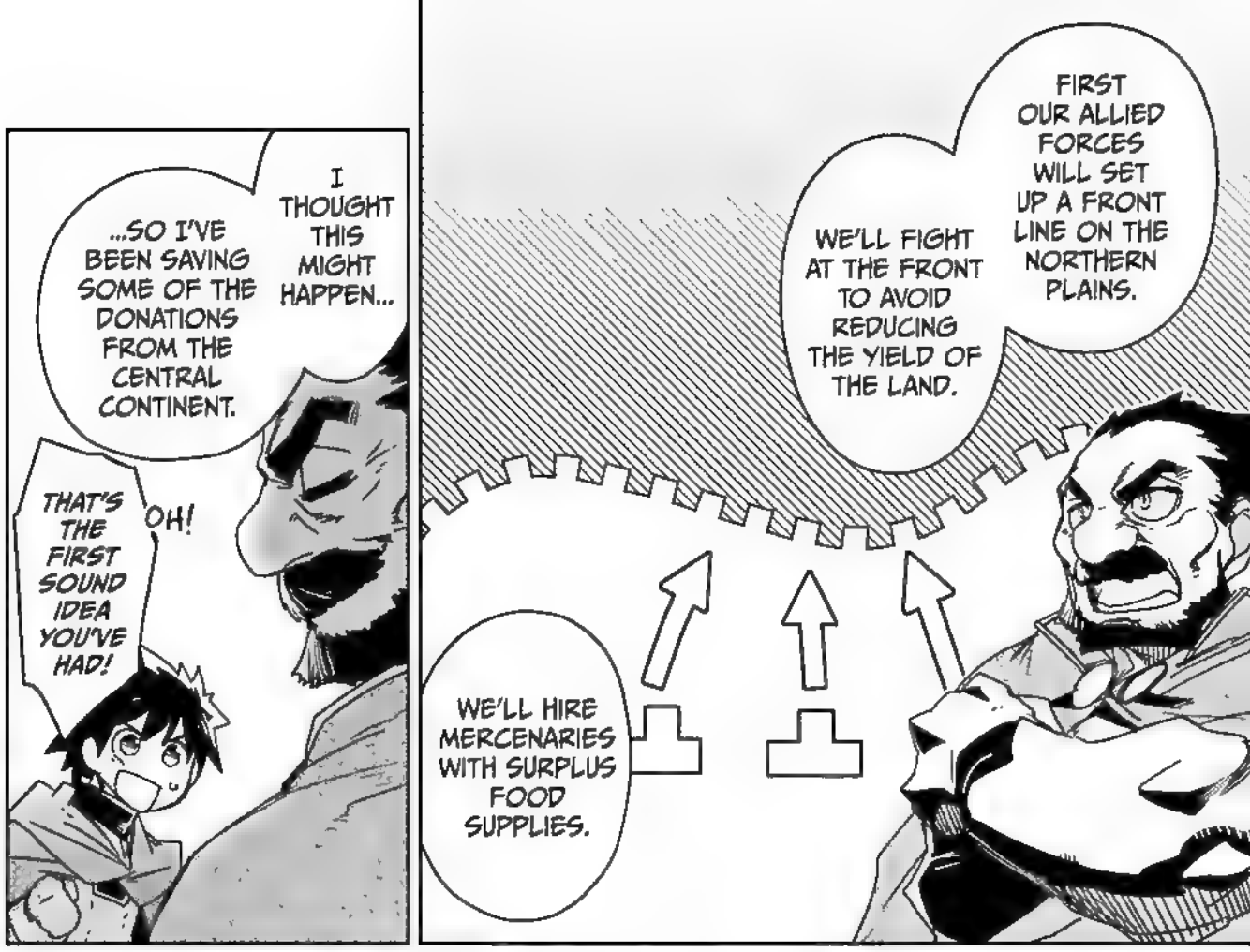
HERO.
UH...
YOU TOO.
THIS IS GOOD.
YEAH.
YOU'VE GOTTEN EVEN BETTER.
HEH HEH.
BLUSH
CLINK
HERO, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A DRINK?
THIS IS FIREWATER FROM THE IRON KINGDOM.
IT'LL WARM YOU UP.
HO HO HO
HA HA HA
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION WE'RE IN?
WE PICKED A FIGHT WITH THE CENTRAL CONTINENT AND CHURCH
YES.
YES. HOW-EVER...
CLANK
...THE SITUATION IS BIGGER THAN A QUESTION OF HERESY NOW.

...FROM THE CENTRAL CONTI-NENT.
...THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT WE'LL BECOME INDEPENDENT...
IN OTHER WORDS, THE TRUE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM IS...
...TO THREATEN AND WEAKEN OUR UNITY.
THE CENTRAL CONTINENT'S GOAL WAS TO USE THE ACCUSATION OF HERESY...
AS A RESULT ...
HER SPEECH OPENED THE PEOPLE'S EYES TO THE IDEA OF FREEDOM.
HOWEVER, THE OLDER MAID SISTER'S SPEECH HAS CHANGED THE SITUATION.
...HOW WILL THE NATION FACE ITS PEOPLE NOW THAT THEY DESIRE FREEDOM ?
...THE QUESTION IS NOW...

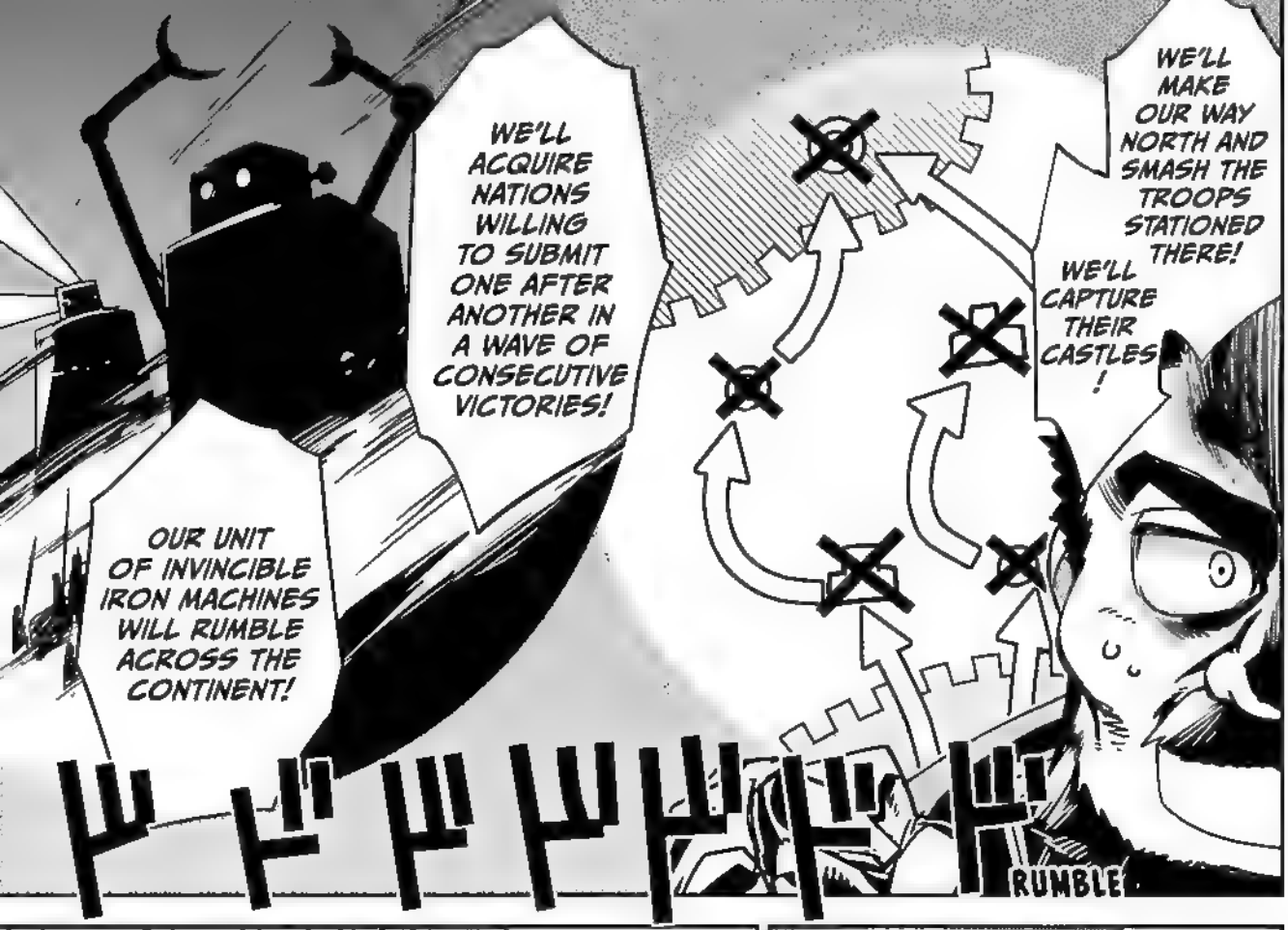
....
I'M SORRY!
WELL...
THAT SURE WAS IMPRES-SIVE.
HEH HEH HEH
I WAS MOVED.
THE IMPACT OF YOUR SPEECH CERTAINLY WASN'T SMALL.
LIKE WILDFIRE, IT WILL GAIN INTENSITY AS IT BURNS.
IT CAN'T BE STOPPED.
WHICH MEANS WE...
NOD
YES.
WE WISH TO WALK WITH OUR PEOPLE.

NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED...
...WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO NOW.
HMM—
PLANS, COURSES, AND TACTICS...
PAT
HERO.
OH.
DO YOU HAVE ANY GOOD IDEAS?
YOU STINK OF LIQUOR
SMUG
I WILL PROTECT YOUR CHASTITY, HERO!
SHINE!
SHE'S USELESS I'D BETTER DO SOMETHING ABOUT HER SOON
MY BLADE IS INVINCIBLE!
I SUPPOSE OUR FIRST COURSE OF ACTION ...
...SHOULD BE EMANCIPATING THE SERFS.

THANKS TO THE POTATOES, THE MAXIMUM POPULATION WE CAN SUPPORT HAS DOUBLED.
I BELIEVE WE CAN CHANGE COURSE WITHOUT TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
THAT'S A SURPRISINGLY DECENT OPINION.
HOW WILL WE HANDLE THE CENTRAL CONTINENT?
I IMAGINE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO AVOID WAR.
I'LL LET THE MEN HANDLE THE FIGHTING.
SLUMP
ANOTHER GLASS, PLEASE.
HAH.
STEP
IT'S MY TIME TO SHINE.
BAM


I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN...
...SO I'VE BEEN SAVING SOME OF THE DONATIONS FROM THE CENTRAL CONTINENT.
OH!
THAT'S THE FIRST SOUND IDEA YOU'VE HAD!
FIRST OUR ALLIED FORCES WILL SET UP A FRONT LINE ON THE NORTHERN PLAINS.
WE'LL FIGHT AT THE FRONT TO AVOID REDUCING THE YIELD OF THE LAND.
WE'LL HIRE MERCENARIES WITH SURPLUS FOOD SUPPLIES.

WE'LL CRUSH THEM IN THE FIRST ROUND!
I SEE.
WE'LL MEET THE CENTRAL FORCES ON THE NORTHERN PLAIN.
BASED ON THE SIZE OF THEIR PAST EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, THEY'LL SEND AROUND 50,000 MEN.
BOOM


WE'LL ACQUIRE NATIONS WILLING TO SUBMIT ONE AFTER ANOTHER IN A WAVE OF CONSECUTIVE VICTORIES!
OUR UNIT OF INVINCIBLE IRON MACHINES WILL RUMBLE ACROSS THE CONTINENT!
WE'LL MAKE OUR WAY NORTH AND SMASH THE TROOPS STATIONED THERE!
WE'LL CAPTURE THEIR CASTLES!
RUMBLE

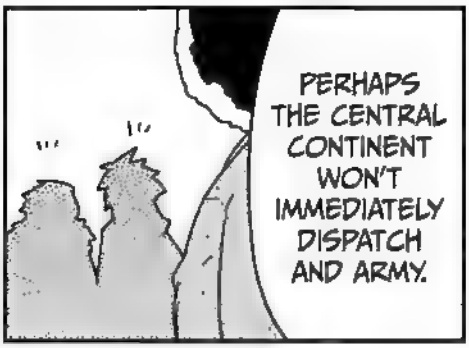
AND WE'LL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!
...BUT THEY WILL BE POWERLESS IN THE FACE OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THE CAPITAL WILL FALL!
~fin~

WE'LL MARCH ON THE HOLY CAPITAL!
IN THEIR LAST STAND, OUR ENEMIES WILL BRING OUT ONE NEW WEAPON AFTER ANOTHER...
RUMBLE

WHAT ARE WE ACTUALLY GOING TO DO?
THAT'S A DIFFICULT QUESTION.

おおお!
WOW!
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP

HEY.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, TEACHER.


PERHAPS THE CENTRAL CONTINENT WON'T IMMEDIATELY DISPATCH AND ARMY.

THE CENTRAL CONTINENT'S GOAL IS TO CONQUER THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS, NOT DESTROY THEM.
DURING OR AFTER A WAR BETWEEN THE CENTRAL CONTINENT AND THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS...
...SHOULD THE DEMONS ATTACK IN OUR EXHAUSTED STATE, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESIST THEM.
PERHAPS THEY WILL TRY TO USE DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE.
I SEE.

WAIT.
!
THEY WOULD NOT ...
IS THERE SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
?
NO, NOTHING.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THEY WOULD DO IT...
...BUT IF THE CENTRAL KINGDOMS WERE TO WORK WITH THE DEMONS...
...THEIR MILITARY CAPABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY WOULD INCREASE. IT WOULD BE EASY FOR THEM TO PUT PRESSURE ON US.
SHUDDER
I'M SORRY. I'M BEING RIDICULOUS.
I'LL DO SOME RECONNAISSANCE AND SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT.
YOU'RE GOING SOMEWHERE? I'LL JOIN YOU, HERO!
だばぁ
JUMP
GO TO SLEEP.
WHACK
スコ!
AAH.

LET'S SEE. WHERE SHOULD I START?
WHAT WOULD SHE DO IN THIS SITUATION?
WHAT WOULD SHE THINK?
I CAN'T THINK SUPERFICIALLY.
HMM ムムム…
I HAVE TO CONSIDER THE STRUCTURES AND COMPETING INTERESTS...
HISS シュー
SMOKE シュー…
YARGH ガー
I DON'T KNOW!
DASH ドドドドドド
TA-DA!
THIS IS PIE!
OOH おお……

ARE WE FIGHTING OVER LAND...
...TO BECOME MORE AFFLUENT?
WHAT IS AFFLUENCE, ANYWAY?
WHY ARE WE FIGHTING, ANYWAY?
GIVE MONEY TO OTHERS SO THEY CAN SPEND IT.
WHEN GOODS AND MONEY FREELY FLOW, YOU'RE CONSIDERED "AFFLUENT."
HOARDING YOUR WEALTH MAKES YOU "WEALTHY", BUT NOT "AFFLUENT."
IT'S THE EXCHANGE OF GOODS THROUGH SELLING AND BUYING.
THAT MAKES YOU AFFLUENT, RIGHT?
IN OTHER WORDS, UMM...
IT MEANS HAVING RELATIONSHIPS, RIGHT?

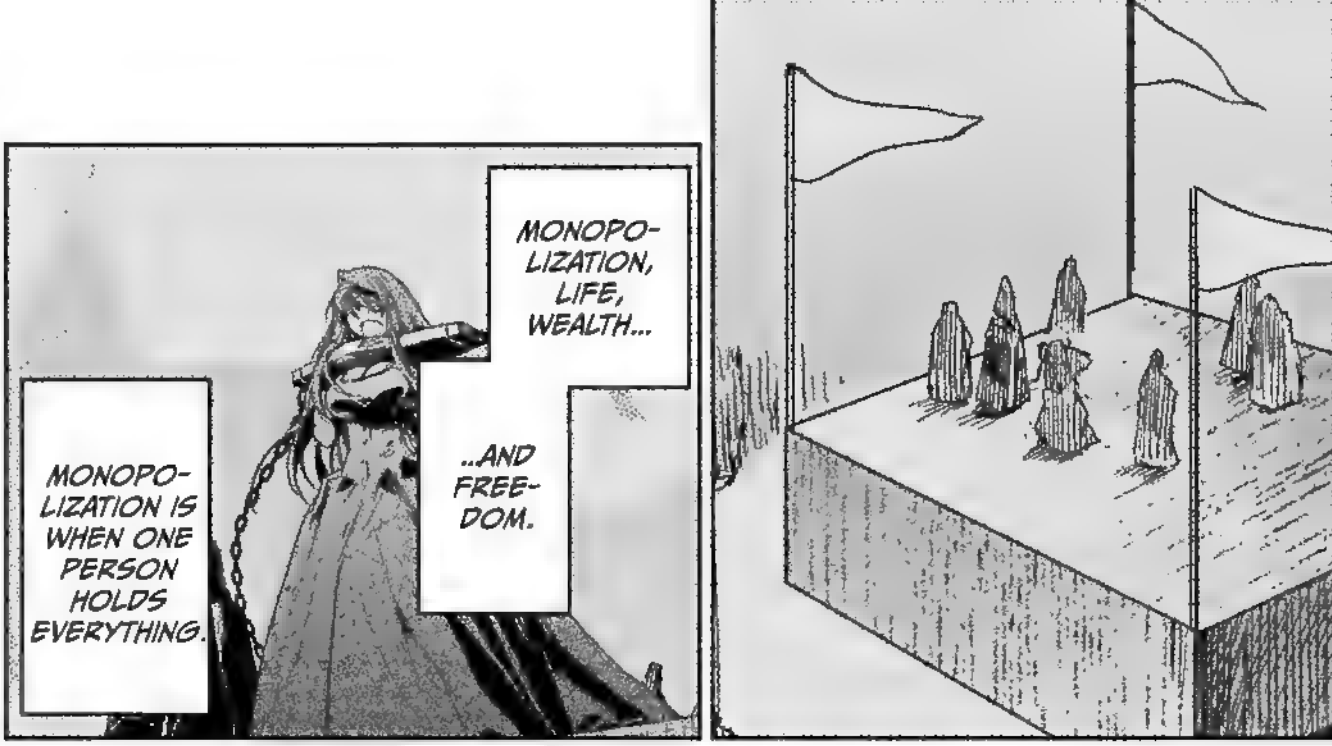
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
THEY LIMIT THE WORLD AND MAKE IT SMALLER. WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE THEIR AIM IN THAT?
THE ACTIONS OF THE CHURCH...
...AND THE HOLY CAPITAL.
DOESN'T THAT MEAN OUR WORLD ISN'T AFFLUENT?
AFTER ALL, IT'S CLOSED.
I SEE
IS THIS MADE FROM QUAIL EGGS AND MEAT?
STEAM
うふ HEE HEE ふ
IT'S GOLDEN AND BEAUTIFUL!
STEAM
STEAM
OOH.
DO THEY MEAN TO KEEP...
...WISDOM, FAVOR, AND POWER TO THEMSELVES?
THEY WANT TO KEEP ALL RICHES TO THEMSELVES.
NO, NOT JUST RICHES.
DOES THE CHURCH WANT TO BECOME WEALTHY?

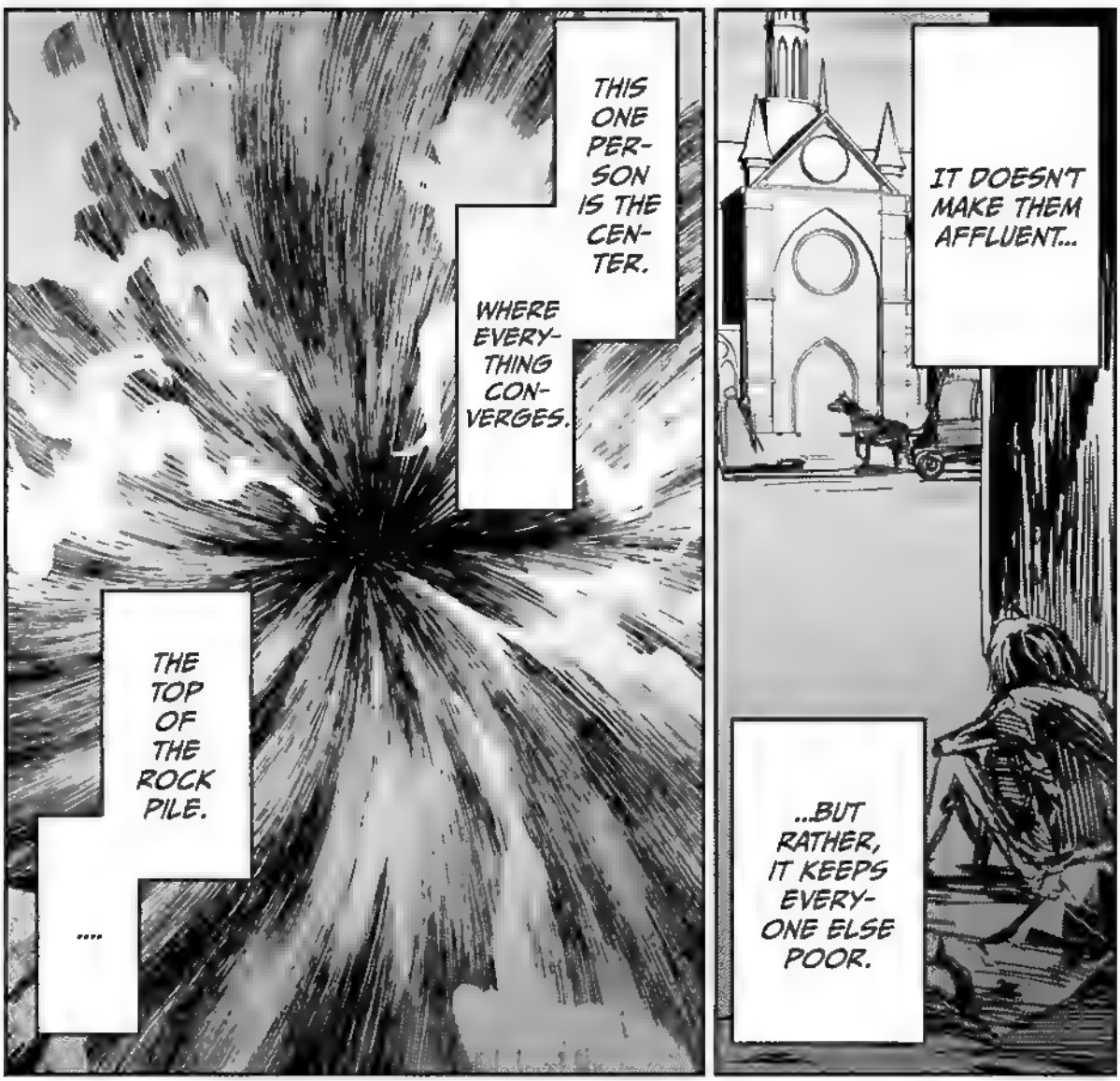
OOH.
THESE ARE SWEET AND DELICIOUS.
I HAVE PEAR PIES TOO.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE CRISP TEXTURE IS INTERESTING.

I SEE. THAT'S WHAT THE DEMON QUEEN MEANT WHEN SHE SAID IT WAS WRONG.
...AND THEY'RE TRYING TO PERPETUATE THAT?
...THEY'RE CREATING A HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE...
BY DRAWING THEM FROM OTHERS IN A CLOSED ENVIRONMENT...

HERO.

MUMBLE


MONOPO-
LIZATION,
LIFE,
WEALTH...
..AND
FREE-
DOM.
MONOPO-
LIZATION IS
WHEN ONE
PERSON
HOLDS
EVERYTHING.


THIS
ONE
PER-
SON
IS THE
CEN-
TER.
WHERE
EVERY-
THING
CON-
VERGES.
THE
TOP
OF
THE
ROCK
PILE.
....
IT DOESN'T
MAKE THEM
AFFLUENT...
...BUT
RATHER,
IT KEEPS
EVERY-
ONE ELSE
POOR.

HERE.
WHICH WOULD YOU LIKE, HERO?
POKE
POKE
....
WHICH?
!
DO YOU WANT A SALTY ONE OR A SWEET ONE?
YOU CAN HAVE EITHER ONE.
THEY'RE BOTH GOOD.

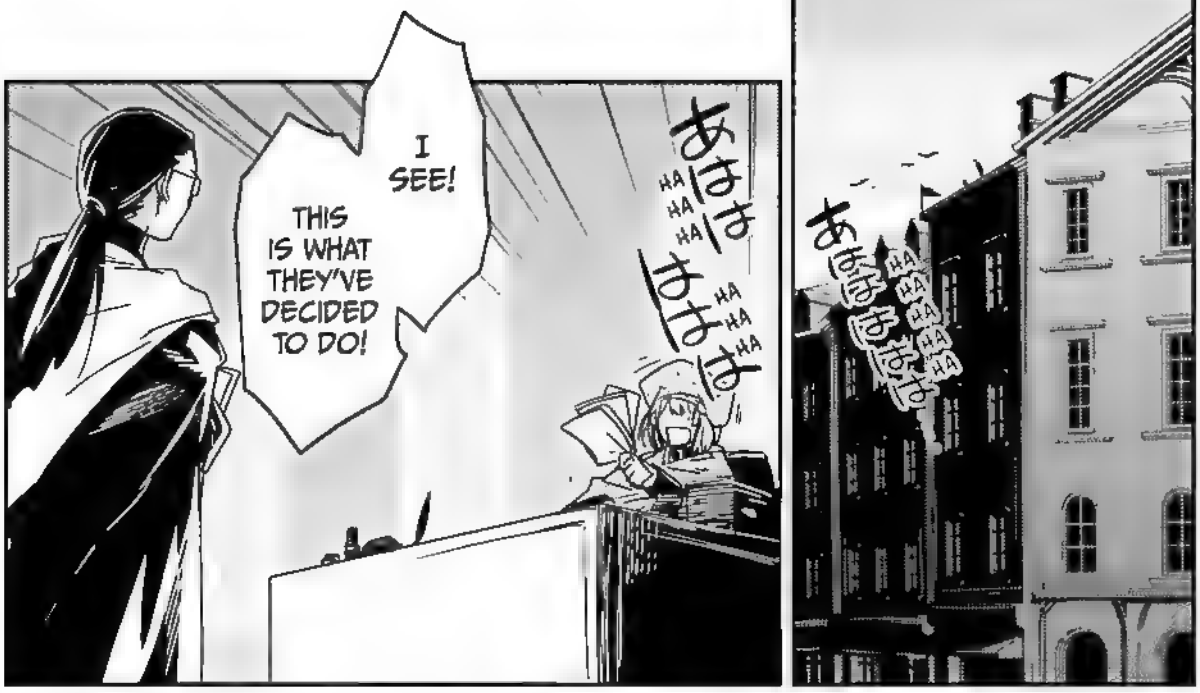
WE'LL ISSUE A PROCLA-MATION.
WE'LL SAY THE THREE ALLIED KINGDOMS OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS RECOGNIZE THE LAKESIDE CONVENT AS THE NATION'S OFFICIAL RELIGION.
WE'LL SAY IT'S THE TRUE FAITH OF THE SPIRITS OF LIGHT!

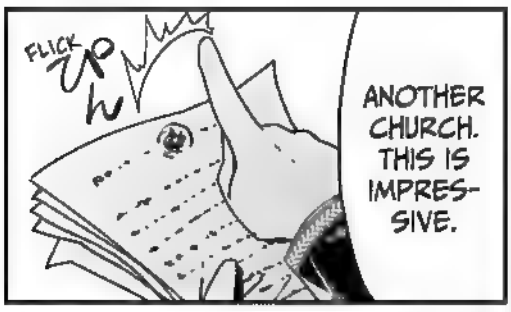
RIGHT?
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH ONLY ONE CAN EXIST!
RIGHT?
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HAVING TWO!
EVERY-ONE'S HAPPIER WHEN THEY CAN CHOOSE!
DON'T YOU AGREE, FEMALE KNIGHT?
SLAP
SLAP
GROAN
GROAN

WE CAN PRINT THE TEACHINGS OF THE LAKESIDE CONVENT TOO!
WE'LL PRINT A TON OF THEM...
WE'LL PUT THE SPEECH OF THE SCHOLAR, SAINT OF THE LAKESIDE CONVENT, ON THE COVER!
IT'S ACTUALLY THE OLDER MAID SISTER, THOUGH.
...USING THE PRINTING PRESS!

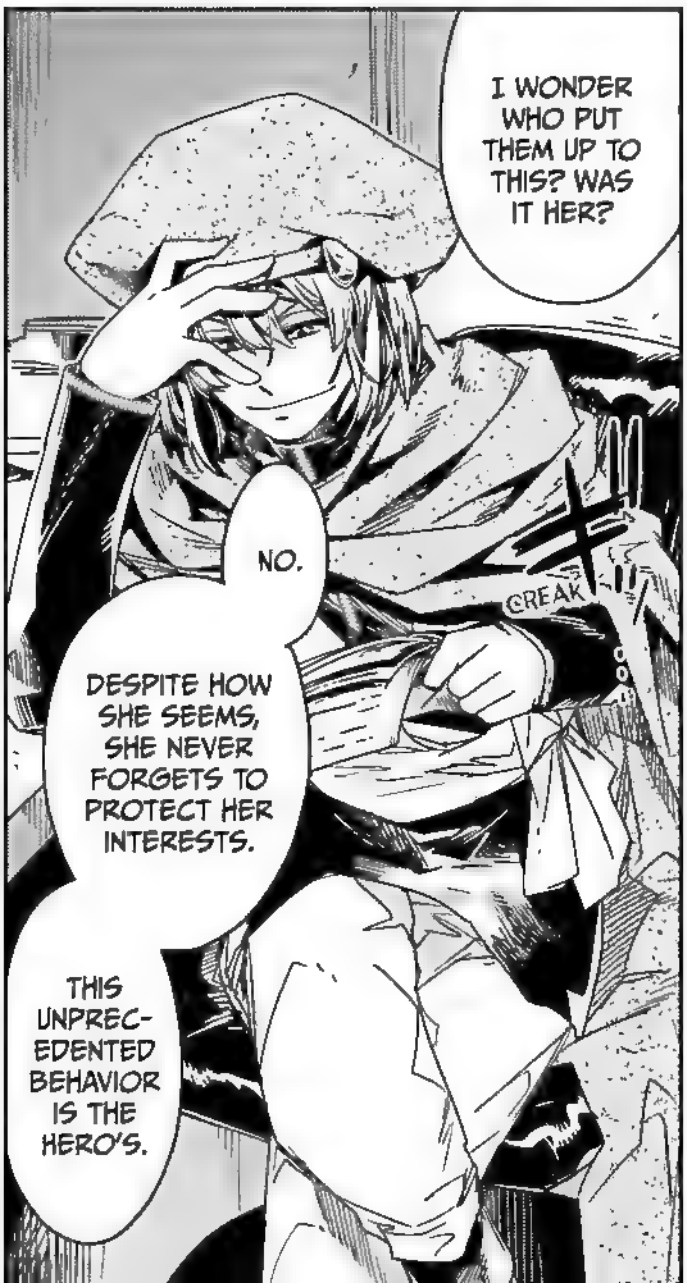
LET'S PUT AGRI-CULTURAL TECHNIQUES ON THERE TOO!
IT'LL BE LIKE A TEXT-BOOK!
WE COULD EVEN INCLUDE COUPONS FOR SEED POTATOES TOO!

WHAT POINT IS THERE IN DOING THAT?
WE'LL CREATE TWO TOPS.
TWO CHURCHES.
THAT'S THE BEGINNING.


I SEE!
THIS IS WHAT THEY'VE DECIDED TO DO!
あはは HA HA HA HA
あはは HA HA HA HA HA

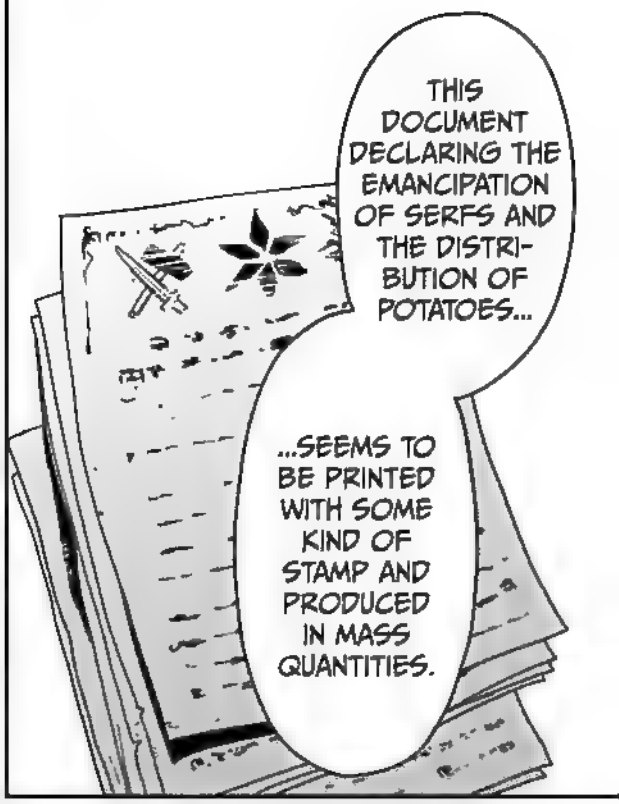

FLICK
ANOTHER CHURCH. THIS IS IMPRESSIVE.

I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW SHOCKED THE HIGHER UPS OF THE CHURCH MUST BE.
INDEED.
THEIR FACES WERE TURNING RED AND BLUE.


I WONDER WHO PUT THEM UP TO THIS? WAS IT HER?
NO.
CREAK
DESPITE HOW SHE SEEMS, SHE NEVER FORGETS TO PROTECT HER INTERESTS.
THIS UNPRECEDENTED BEHAVIOR IS THE HERO'S.

I SEE.
BECAUSE OF THIS, THERE'S BEEN AN INFLUX OF SERFS FROM THE KINGDOMS NEAR THE SOUTH.

WHAT'S THE SITUATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE?


THIS DOCUMENT DECLARING THE EMANCIPATION OF SERFS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF POTATOES...
...SEEMS TO BE PRINTED WITH SOME KIND OF STAMP AND PRODUCED IN MASS QUANTITIES.

THE MERCHANT'S SON USED HIS ELOQUENCE TO MAKE ONE OF THE ARCHBISHOP'S SUPPORTERS SWITCH SIDES...
...AND MAKE TWO OF THEM NEUTRAL.
ARCHBISHOP
WITHIN THE 10-MAN COMMITTEE, THREE MEMBERS SUPPORT THE ARCHBISHOP, TWO SUPPORT THE ALLIED NATIONS, AND THE REST ARE NEUTRAL.
ααα
HE'S DONE QUITE WELL.
BY THE WAY, I'M NEUTRAL AS WELL
ALLIED NATIONS
NEU-TRAL

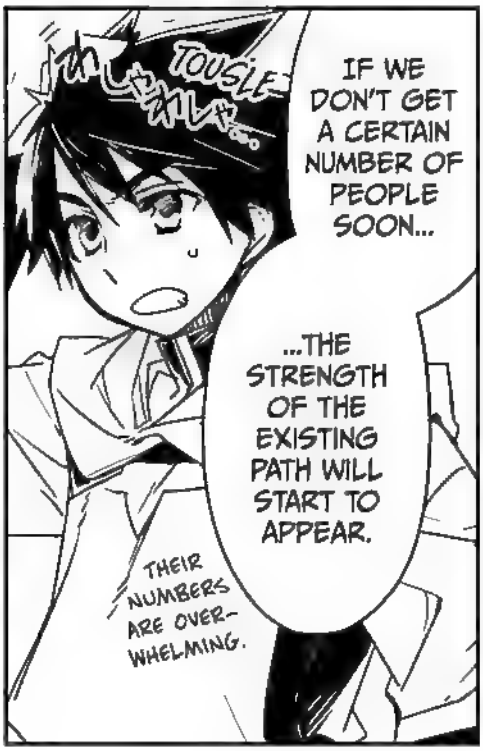
THE OPPORTUNITY ISN'T QUITE RIPE YET...
...BUT IT'S TIME FOR US TO START MAKING OUR MOVE.
I'VE SUMMARIZED OUR FINANCIAL SITUATIONS HERE.
THINGS ARE BECOMING INTERESTING.
THIS RIVALRY IS VALUABLE.
THE SERFS HAVE BEEN EMANCIPATED AND POTATOES HAVE BEEN DECLARED A HERESY.
I SEE.
TWO CHURCHES. THE CENTER AND SOUTH STAND AT ODDS.
SIR?

THE PACE IS STARTING TO SLOW DOWN.
TWELVE MORE PEOPLE ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

IT'S LIKE TEACHING WORDS TO THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK.
HOW-EVER ...
...IF THE PACE IS TOO SLOW, WINTER WILL END.

IT'S PROB-ABLY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO UNDER-STAND.
DO YOU THINK THEY CAN'T ACCEPT THE IDEA OF FREEDOM?

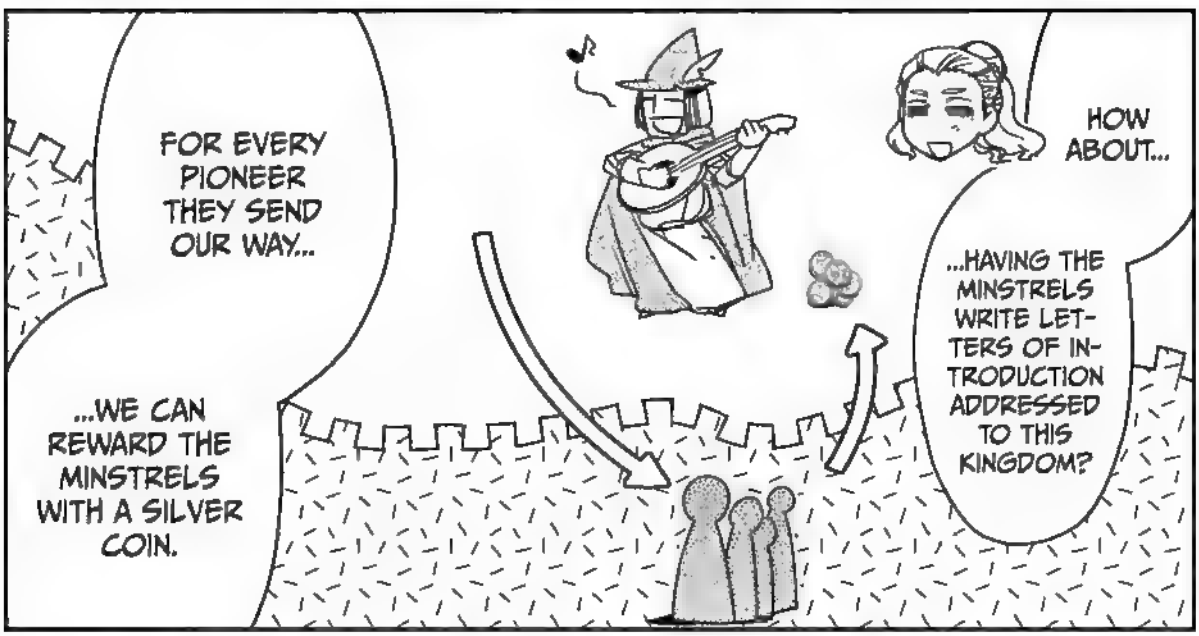
MAYBE READING IS MORE DIFFICULT THAN WE THOUGHT.
WE'VE DISPATCHED PREACHERS, BUT THERE ARE ONLY 5,000 PEOPLE IN THE ENTIRE LAKESIDE CONVENT.
WE CAN'T COVER THE ENTIRE CONTINENT.


TOUSLE
IF WE DON'T GET A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PEOPLE SOON...
...THE STRENGTH OF THE EXISTING PATH WILL START TO APPEAR.
THEIR NUMBERS ARE OVER-WHELMING.

SONGS ARE POWERFUL, YOU KNOW.
MY KINGDOM IS THE HOME OF WANDERING MINSTRELS.
WHY DON'T WE PAY THEM TO SING THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOMS?
PERHAPS THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE PREACHERS.
THEY CAN SET THESE TO MELODIES AND LET THEM RING THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOMS.
THE STRENGTHS OF OUR KINGDOMS.
THE ACTIONS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.
THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH.
EVEN AFTER THE MINSTRELS LEAVE, THE SOUND OF MUSIC WILL REMAIN.
...AS LONG AS THERE'S A MELODY, IT WILL STAY IN THEIR EARS AND THEIR HEARTS.
...OR DON'T IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE WORDS...
EVEN IF THE PEOPLE CANNOT READ...

ALL RIGHT.
LET'S HIRE THEM IMMEDIATELY.
I'LL COVER THEIR TRAVEL EXPENSES.
STEP

IF THEIR TALENT ISN'T AN ISSUE, I BELIEVE WE HAVE CLOSE TO 500.
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU HAVE?


FOR EVERY PIONEER THEY SEND OUR WAY...
...WE CAN REWARD THE MINSTRELS WITH A SILVER COIN.
HOW ABOUT...
...HAVING THE MINSTRELS WRITE LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION ADDRESSED TO THIS KINGDOM?

EXCUSE ME...

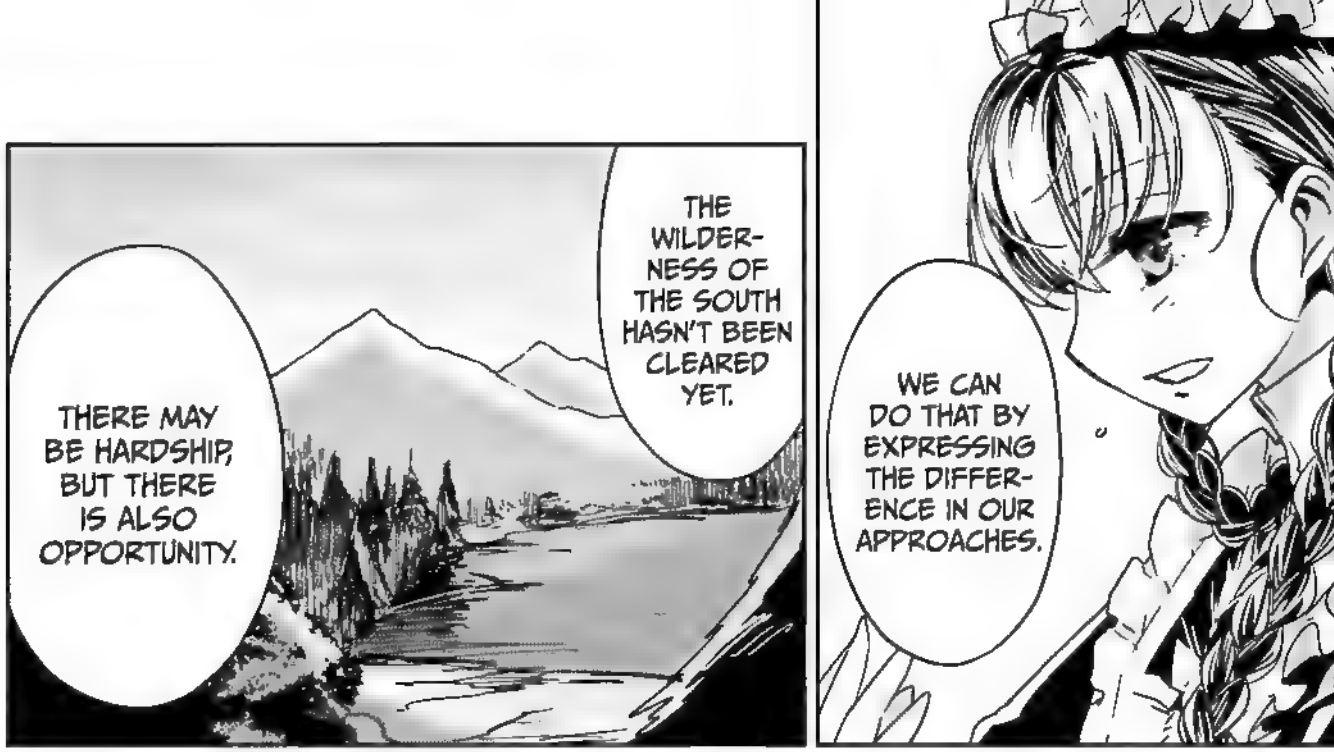
IT MEANS PAYING SOMEONE FOR WORKING HARD.
INCENTIVE?

IT'S, UH...
IT'S WHAT THE SCHOLAR CALLS AN INCENTIVE!
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!

NO ONE KNOWS WHEN THE DEMONS WILL ATTACK NEXT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'D LIKE TO AVOID WAR IF WE CAN.
OUR GOAL THIS TIME ISN'T TO GO TO WAR, IS IT?
WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IN THAT CASE ...
...I BELIEVE WE SHOULDN'T PICK A FIGHT WITH THE CHURCH.
THEY'LL CALL THEM LIARS, SERVANTS OF DEMONS, AND APOS-TATES.
I BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF THE CHURCH WILL SPEAK ILL...
...OF THE CONVENT'S PREACHERS AND MIN-STRELS.

SO THE PREACHERS AND MINSTRELS...
...AND PAPERS WE'RE ABOUT TO PRINT SHOULD AVOID...
...CRITICIZING THE CHURCH TOO MUCH.
IF WE ACCEPT THEIR CHALLENGE, IT WILL MEAN WAR.
WE DON'T WANT TO START A WAR BETWEEN HUMANS, DO WE?
BUT WE CAN'T JUST TAKE THIS LYING DOWN.
THEY'RE WRONG AT THE CORE!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...
...BUT...
...MOST OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO TRULY BELIEVE IN THE SPIRITS OF LIGHT.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY BENEFIT TO GETTING THEM CAUGHT IN A FIGHT.
....
YOU'RE RIGHT.

I THINK WE SHOULD PRAISE THEM.
THE SPIRITS OF LIGHT ARE WORTHY OF RESPECT.
IN-TEG-RITY.
DILI-GENCE.
PEACE.
I THINK WE CAN AGREE ON THOSE POINTS.
SO INSTEAD OF REJECTING THE CENTRAL CONTINENT'S CHURCH...
...I BELIEVE WE SHOULD RESPECT THOSE WHO KEEP THE FAITH.
HMM
I SEE
BUT THAT WON'T HELP US INVITE ANY PIONEERS TO JOIN OUR CAUSE.


WE CAN DO THAT BY EXPRESSING THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR APPROACHES.
THE WILDERNESS OF THE SOUTH HASN'T BEEN CLEARED YET.
THERE MAY BE HARDSHIP, BUT THERE IS ALSO OPPORTUNITY.

THE SPIRITS HAVE GRANTED US THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE FARMLAND.
THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS DESIRE NEW PIONEERS.
WITH NO SERFDOM THERE, ANYONE CAN FEED HIMSELF...
...AS LONG AS HE'S WILLING TO WORK HARD.

WE'LL LURE THEM IN WITH FOOD AND LAND.
HMM.
I SEE.
WE CAN SAY THE TAXES ARE RELATIVELY LOW TOO.
WON'T PEOPLE MOVE HERE AFTER HEARING THAT?
ALL HER STUDENTS END UP THAT WAY.
I WAS EXPECTING YOU TO PROPOSE IDEALISTIC THOUGHTS...
...BUT YOU'RE USING COLD HARD REALITY AS A WEAPON INSTEAD.
SISTER!

THE END CHAPTER 15
That is the Beginning

THE HISTORICAL REALITY OF TRAVELING MINSTRELS

Minstrels who perform music and song frequently appear in novels and games. Let's take a look at at the historical reality of minstrels with a focus on France.

EVEN IF THE PEOPLE CANNOT READ...
...OR DON'T IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE WORDS...
...AS LONG AS THERE'S A MELODY, IT WILL STAY IN THEIR EARS AND THEIR HEARTS.

The queen of the Ice Kingdom, whose nation is home to many minstrels, recognized the power music has over people.

TRAVELING MINSTRELS EXISTED ALL OVER THE WORLD SINCE ANCIENT TIMES

The history of the traveling minstrel is old, and in ancient Greece, the minstrel was known as the "aoidos." Homer, author of the famous epic poems the Iliad and the Odyssey. is believed to have been an aoidos. However, when speaking in general terms, the word most often refers to the "jongleurs" and "minstrels" of the 10th to 15th Centuries. The term used in Japan is the equivalent Japanese term for said people.

The term "jongleur" is a generic term for French street performers and traveling entertainers. In addition to performing music and singing, they also provided musical accompaniment for juggling acts and magic tricks, and they traveled around in groups. Meanwhile, "minstrel" refers to entertainers employed by the court who performed at parties and during daily meals to create excitement.

Though jongleurs and minstrels existed at the very bottom of stratified societies, they reflected knight culture and passed down their songs of heroic deeds orally. Jongleurs in particular played an important role in spreading literature among people who could not read.

Outside of France, the performers of the knight class known as "Minnesangers" who appeared during the 12th Century in Germany and the mendicant friars who sang about Christian teachings known as "laudas" of Northern Italy could also be called minstrels.

Additionally, in Celtic societies there were "bards" who conveyed legends, laws, and history through song, and their songs were believed to have power. The bards that frequently appear in games are based on these.

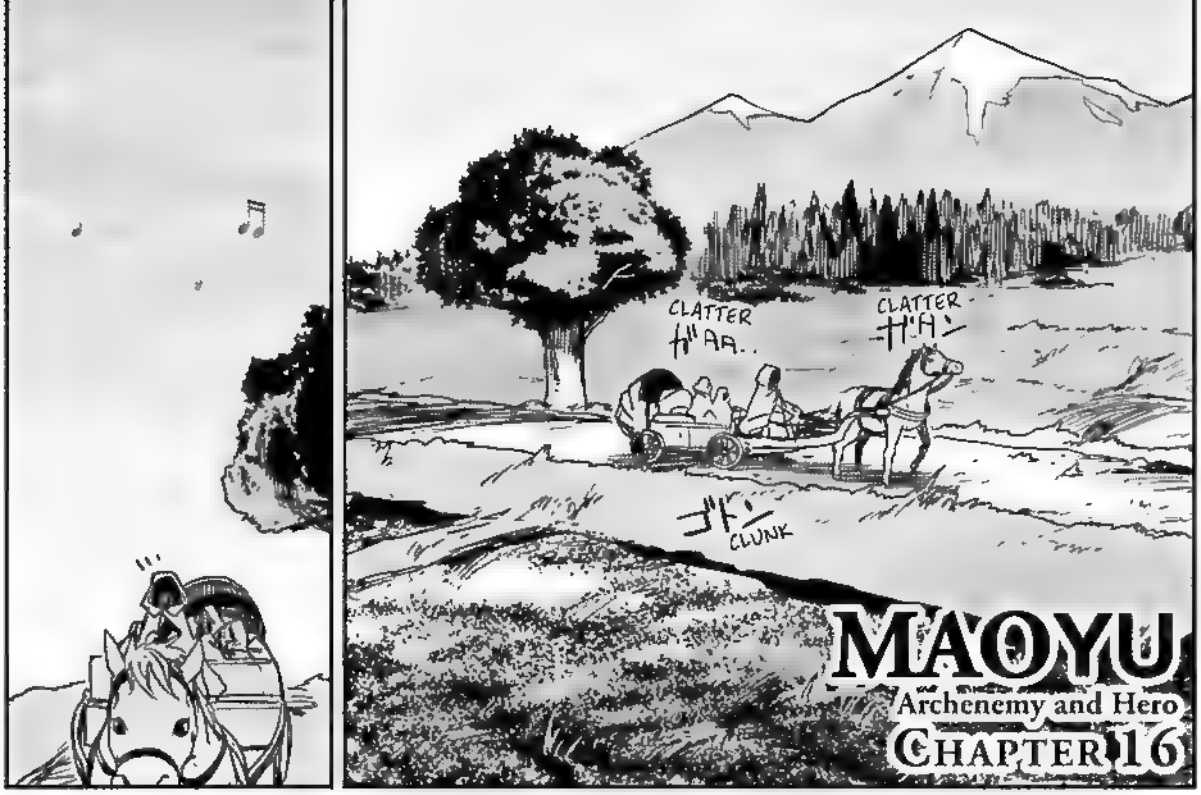
There are numerous artisans similar to minstrels outside of Europe as well, and similar figures appear in the Islamic world and Africa as well. Japanese lute playing priests known for playing their own accompaniment as they recited the "Heiki Monogatari" could be considered minstrels as well.

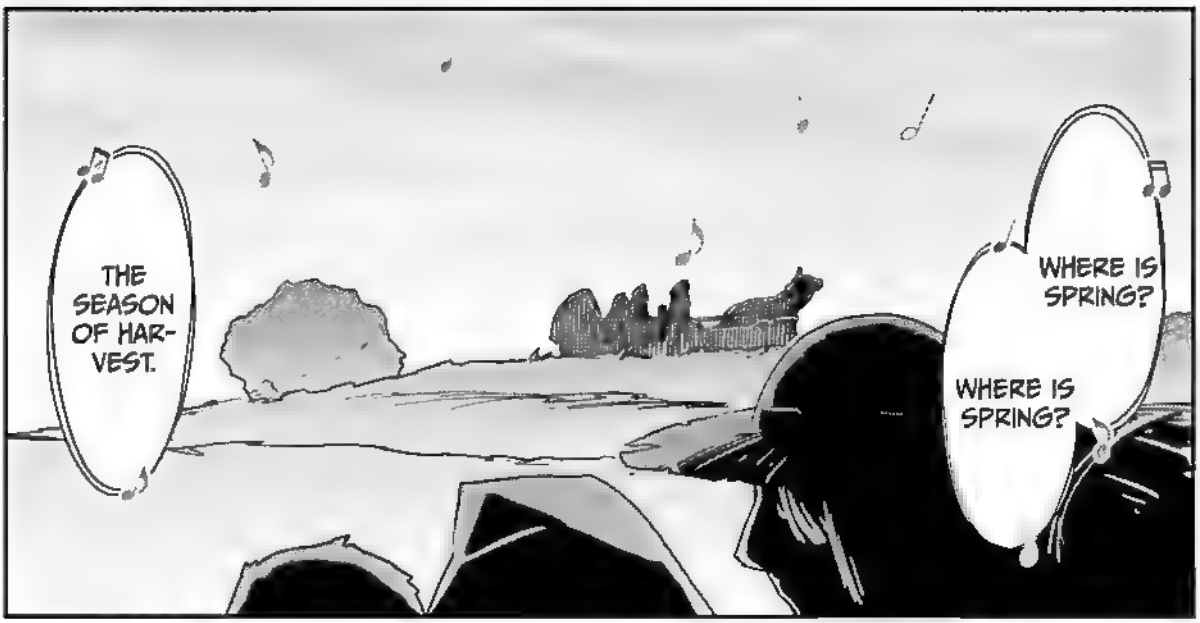
In this manner, the power of music truly is universal.

Many people gather in the Southern Kingdoms due to the power of the songs spread by traveling minstrels.

A NEW ASSOCIATION

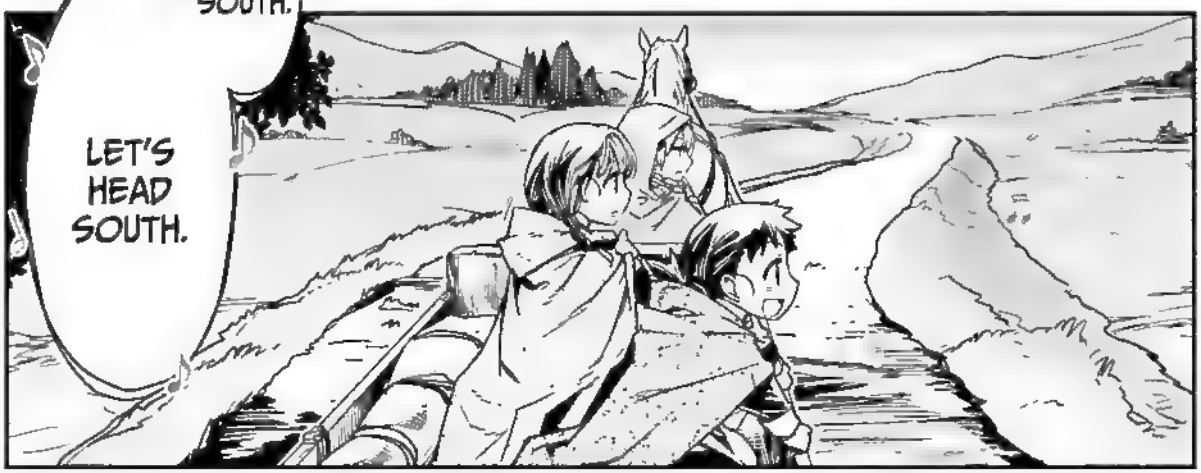
IT'S OKAY.
TAKE YOUR TIME CONDUCTING YOUR BUSINESS.
COMMANDER!
WE'RE FINISHED CHECKING THEIR CARTS.
ALL RIGHT.
SNORT
THAT'S 15 CARRIAGES OF POTATOES.
ARE THOSE HORSES?
IS THAT ALL? I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE TO...
...OFFER SOME KIND OF BRIBE.
I CALL MYSELF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF GATEWAY CITY, BUT IT'S REALLY JUST A TITLE.
IF I ACCEPTED BRIBES, MY HEAD WOULD ROLL.
LITERALLY
THAT, HUH?
WELL...
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
BY THE WAY, THAT THING I ASKED YOU ABOUT...
HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA


CLATTER
CLATTER
CLUNK
MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 16


THE SEASON OF HARVEST.
WHERE IS SPRING?
WHERE IS SPRING?

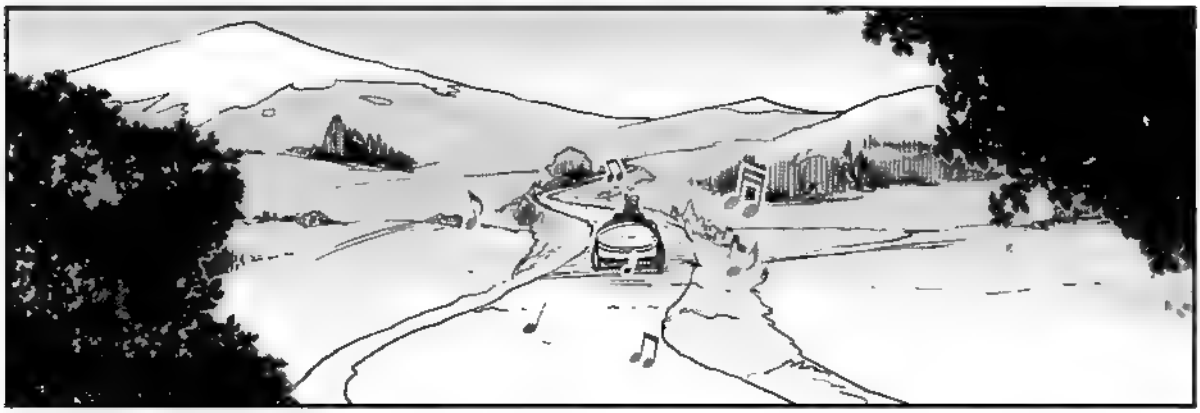
SEARCH FOR THE HARVEST THAT PILES UP.
THE TALL AND GOLDEN WHEAT BOWING ITS HEAD.
THE HILLS OF POTATOES BURIED IN THE EARTH.

HEAD SOUTH.
HEAD SOUTH TOWARD THE HARVEST.


HEAD SOUTH.
LET'S HEAD SOUTH.

HUH.
THE POWER OF SONG IS AMAZ-ING.
MAYBE I'LL TRY USING SONGS IN THE CONVENT

THAT'S THE SONG YOU GUYS CAME UP WITH!
THEY'RE ALREADY SINGING IT OUT HERE.



CHAPTER 16 Archenemy and Hero
What Can You Do With a Single Coin?

IRON KINGDOM
WINTER KINGDOM
ICE KINGDOM
THE MAID SISTERS HEADED TO THE ICE AND IRON KINGDOMS TO WORK ON SPREADING THE SONG...
...AND CREATING NEW TYPE-SETTING PLATES.
THE FEMALE KNIGHT IS ESCORTING THEM.
WE CAN'T HELP IT.
THE IRON FIST KING AND BLIZZARD QUEEN RETURNED TO THEIR KINGDOMS.
どよーん
DEPRESSED
HOW LAMENTABLE.
THIS IS A MAN'S PARADISE.
THESE DOCUMENTS, SIR
THESE ARE LETTERS FROM THE CENTRAL CONTINENT
ごちゃごちゃ
MESS
THIS IS THE IMMIGRANT LIST, AND THIS IS...
WHIMPER

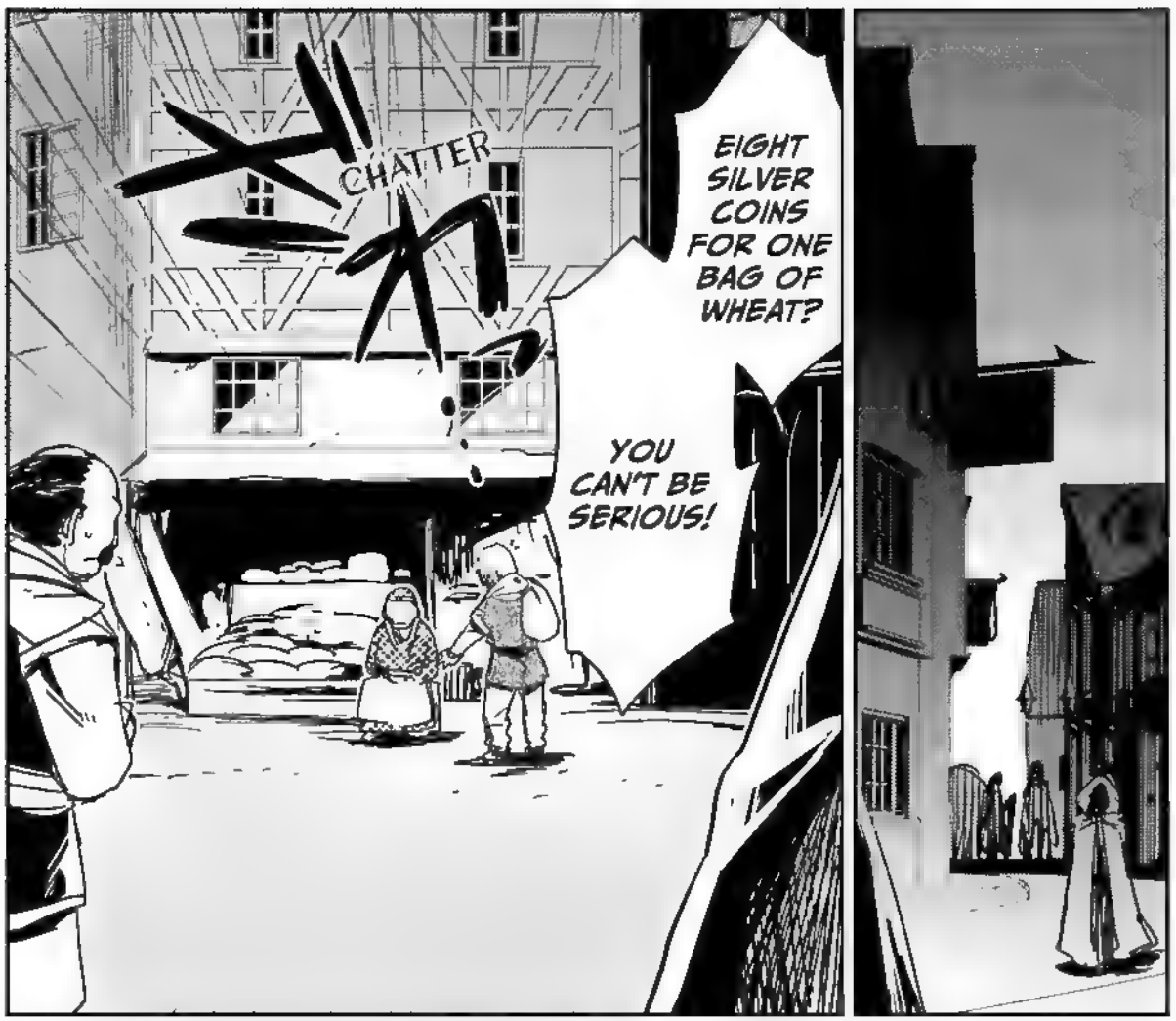
IT MUST BE THE EFFECTS OF THE TRAVELING MINSTRELS.
IT SEEMS LITERACY HAD BEEN SOMETHING OF AN OBSTACLE.
THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT PIONEERS IS INCREASING.
HOW HAS THE SITUATION BEEN ON THE BORDER?
THERE ARE BANDITS AND QUARRELS BETWEEN PIONEERS.
THERE'S NO END TO THE TROUBLES BETWEEN THE NEWLY FREED SERFS AND LANDOWNERS.
AT THE SAME TIME...
...WE CAN SEE ORDER IS BEGINNING TO DETERIORATE AROUND THE BORDER.
I UNDERSTAND.
WE'LL REPLENISH AND STRENGTHEN THE NUMBER OF MEN.
I WILL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY.
WE HAVE A STANDING ARMY PATROLLING THE AREA...
...BUT THEY CAN'T HANDLE EVERYTHING.

WHIMPER
WE HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF PROB-LEMS.
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?
A PLAN FOR SOLVING ALL OUR PROB-LEMS AT ONCE...
GULP
...DOES NOT EXIST.
SLUMP
THERE'S NO SINGLE MIRACULOUSLY CLEVER MOVE TO SOLVE THEM ALL AT ONCE.
WE'LL HAVE TO TACKLE OUR PROBLEMS ONE AT A TIME.
YES, SIR.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHAT'S THE REACTION FROM THE CENTRAL CONTI-NENT?
HUH?
SEE FOR YOUR-SELF.
BAM

"HURRY UP AND APOLO-GIZE."
WHAT IS IT?
EACH NATION OF THE CENTRAL CONTINENT HAS SENT US ITS OWN LETTER.
THOUGH THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM, THEIR CONTENTS ARE LARGELY THE SAME.
IT TAKES ALL OF THIS TO SAY THAT?
THEY ALL HAVE THEIR OWN OPIN-IONS AND HONOR TO WORRY ABOUT.
IT'S ALSO EVIDENCE OF THE SHEER NUMBER OF KINGDOMS WE'VE ANTAGO-NIZED.
HOWEVER, WE CAN ALSO SAY...
...THE CENTRAL CONTINENT IS STILL ONLY MAKING IDLE THREATS.

PERHAPS WE WON'T HAVE TO GO TO WAR SOON.
WHEW
IS THERE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
NO.
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES IN THIS WORLD.
YES.
IT'S POSSIBLE SOMEONE ELSE IN THE WORLD...
...IS COMING UP WITH VARIOUS STRATEGIES JUST LIKE US.
WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT.

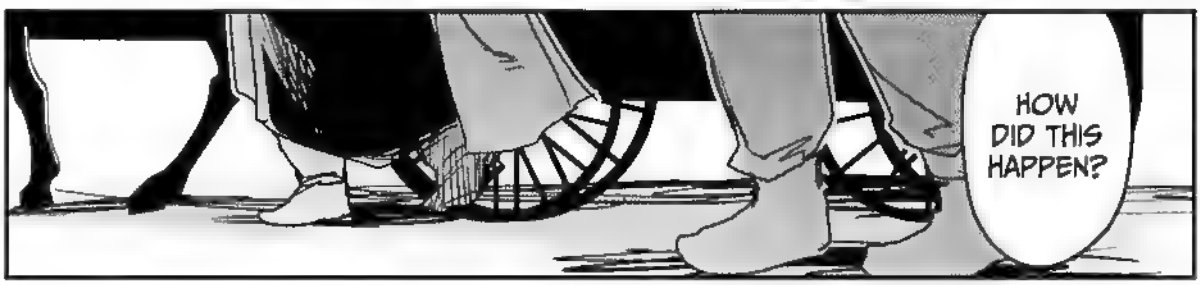
I HOPE NOTHING HAPPENS IN THE CENTRAL CONTINENT.

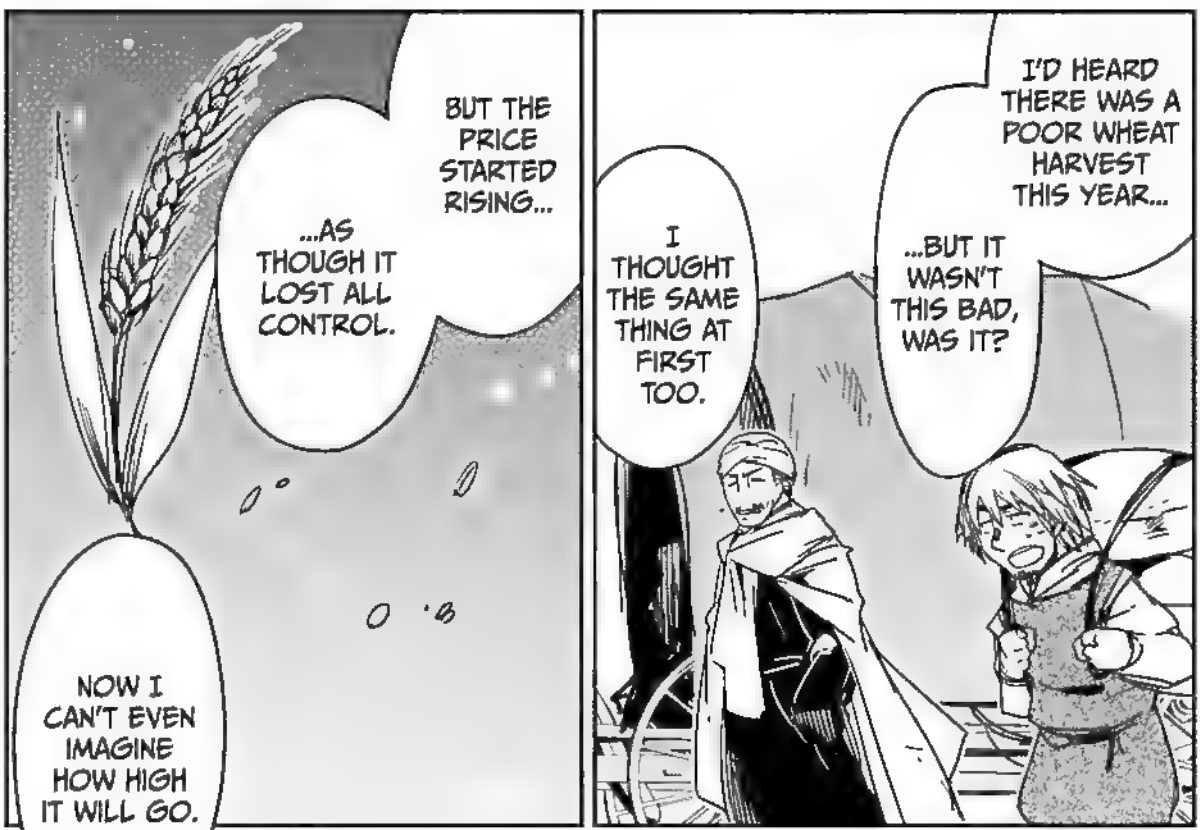

CHATTER
EIGHT SILVER COINS FOR ONE BAG OF WHEAT?
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
SURE, WELCOME.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU LAST CAME SHOPPING.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, THE PRICES ARE LIKE THIS EVERYWHERE YOU GO.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU SHOULD BE CHARGING THAT MUCH.
THAT'S NEARLY TWICE AS MUCH AS NORMAL.
SHUFF
I'D LIKE TO BUY SOME WHEAT.
HOW MUCH IS IT?
IT'S EIGHT SILVER COINS FOR ONE BAG.
THE ROUGH SECOND-CLASS STUFF IS ONLY SIX AND A HALF.
SHOW ME YOUR SECOND-CLASS WHEAT.
THERE ARE SOME INSECTS MIXED IN HERE.
IT'S LIKE THAT EVERYWHERE YOU GO THESE DAYS.
AFTER ALL, THERE'S A SHORTAGE.

CHATTER
CHATTER
STOMP
STOMP
VERY WELL.
I'LL TAKE 25 BAGS.
ALL RIGHT! YOU HAVE A DEAL!
HEY, SEND OUT THE WORKERS!
CLAP
CLAP
IT'S SEVEN SILVER COINS PER BAG.
I'LL TAKE SOME OF THAT SECOND-CLASS STUFF!
DAMN IT!
SIR.
LAST WEEK THIS SECOND-CLASS WHEAT WAS FOUR COINS PER BAG.
WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE?
WHAT?
YOU JUST SAID IT WAS SIX AND A HALF!

DAMN IT!
I'LL BUY IT!
I'LL BUY IT!
I MIGHT MAKE MORE MONEY HOLDING ONTO MINE INSTEAD OF SELLING IT NOW.


HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

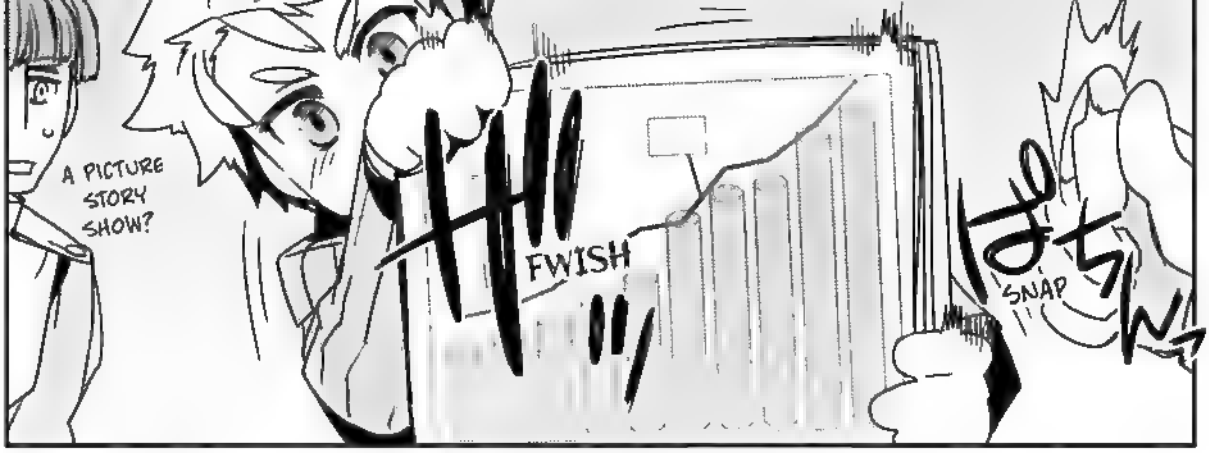

I'D HEARD THERE WAS A POOR WHEAT HARVEST THIS YEAR...
...BUT IT WASN'T THIS BAD, WAS IT?
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING AT FIRST TOO.
BUT THE PRICE STARTED RISING...
...AS THOUGH IT LOST ALL CONTROL.
NOW I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW HIGH IT WILL GO.

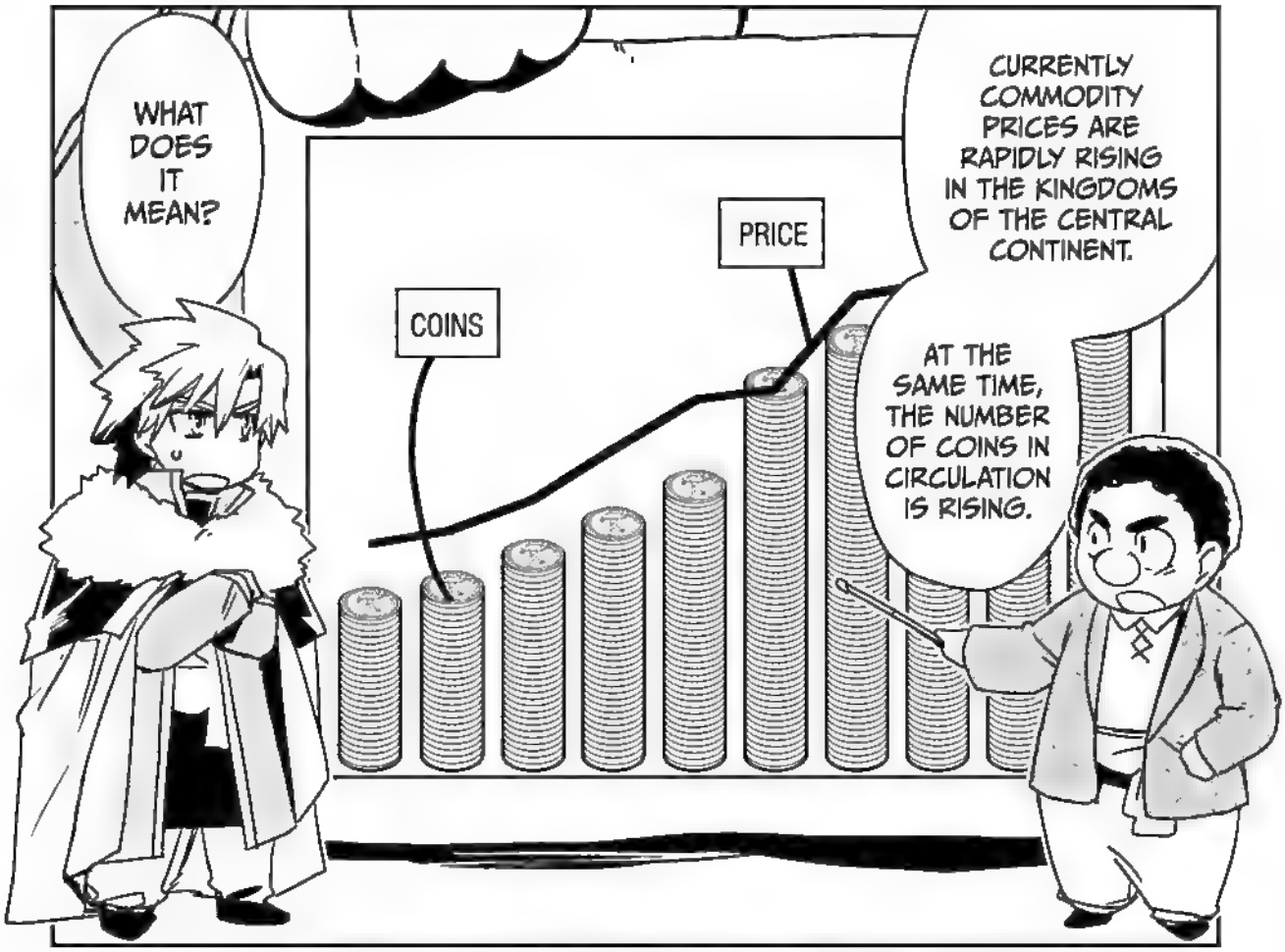
I DON'T KNOW.
ALL WE CAN DO IS BUY WHEAT WHILE IT'S STILL CHEAP.
BUT...
...WHY IS THIS HAPPEN-ING?
IT'S NOT JUST WHEAT. BARLEY, BEANS, AND MEAT... THE PRICES OF ALL FOODS ARE RISING.
IF YOU CAN'T EAT WHEAT, YOU HAVE TO EAT SOMETHING ELSE.
THANKS FOR ANSWERING MY QUES-TIONS.
IT'S FINE.
YEAH.
IF I DON'T STOCK UP ON FOOD SOON, MY FAMILY WON'T MAKE IT THROUGH THE WINTER.
I'M GOING FARTHER OUT INTO THE FRONTIER TO BUY MORE.
THE PRICES RISE FASTER IN THE CITIES WHERE THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE.
CREAK
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

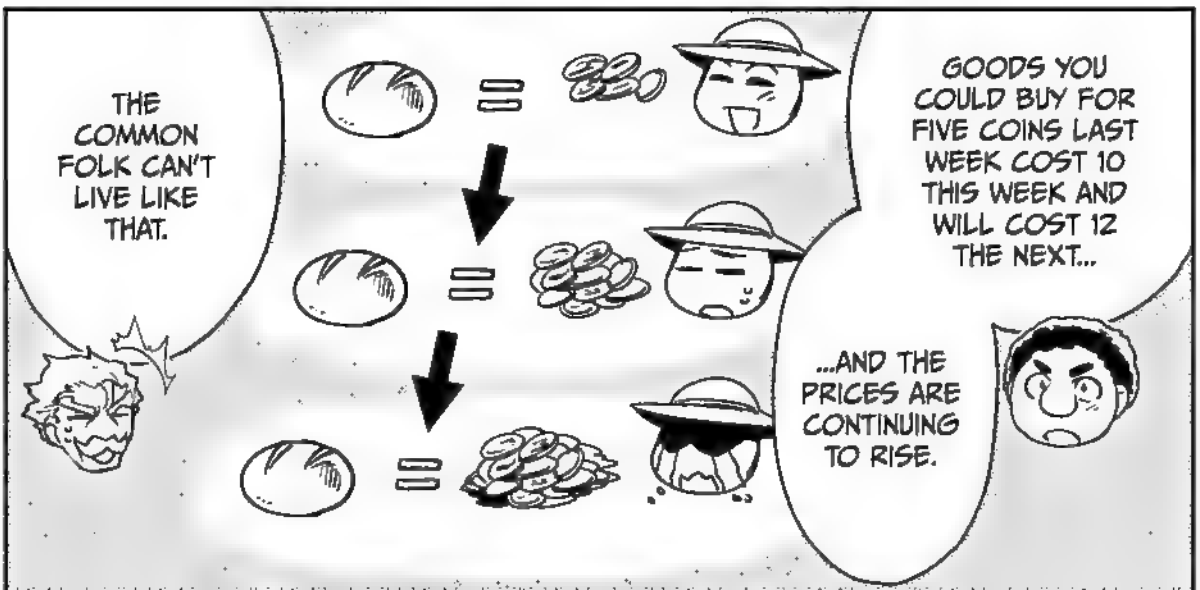
YOU'RE GOING ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE FRONTIER TO BUY FOOD?
YEAH.
THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN OFTEN.
IT'S A BUSINESS OPPORTU-NITY.
CLUNK
CLATTER
BUT...
...I REALLY DO WONDER WHY THIS IS HAPPENING.
FLAP
FLAP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY?
LONELY WINTER KING!
SLAM
SIR!
IT'S AN EMER-GENCY!
WE MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
DID THE CENTRAL CONTINENT DISPATCH AN ARMY?
SO SOON?

TAXES?
ARE TAXES THE KIND OF THING THAT EXPERIENCE EMERGENCIES?
NOD
NO.
IT'S REGARDING THE TAXES.
WHAT?
IT'S THAT BAD?
IT'S AN URGENT SITUATION.
ONE WRONG STEP, AND THE NATION COULD COLLAPSE!
YOU CERTAINLY HAVE GROWN.
I LEARNED HOW TO INTERACT WITH KINGS.
YOU'VE GROWN QUITE STRONG.
I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ IT.
THERE'S NO TIME.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL READ THE REPORT.


A PICTURE STORY SHOW?
FWISH
SNAP

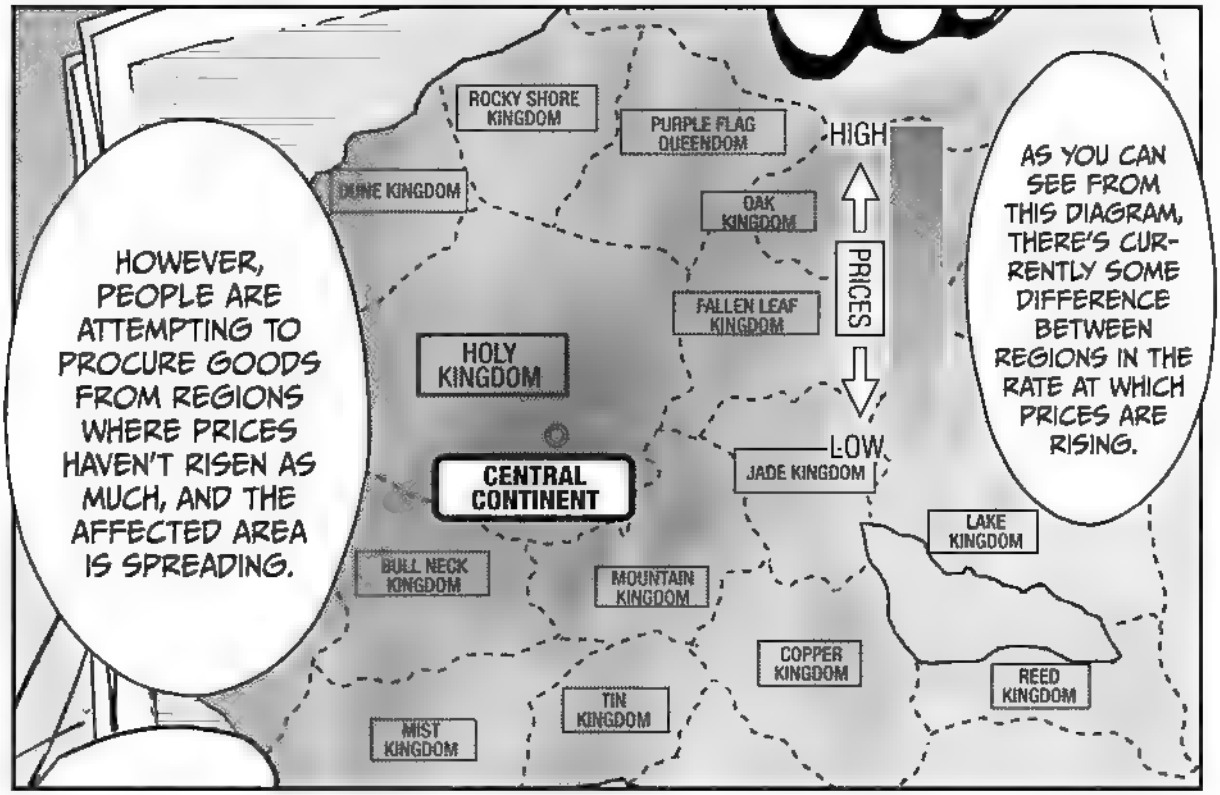

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
COINS
PRICE
CURRENTLY COMMODITY PRICES ARE RAPIDLY RISING IN THE KINGDOMS OF THE CENTRAL CONTINENT.
AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUMBER OF COINS IN CIRCULATION IS RISING.

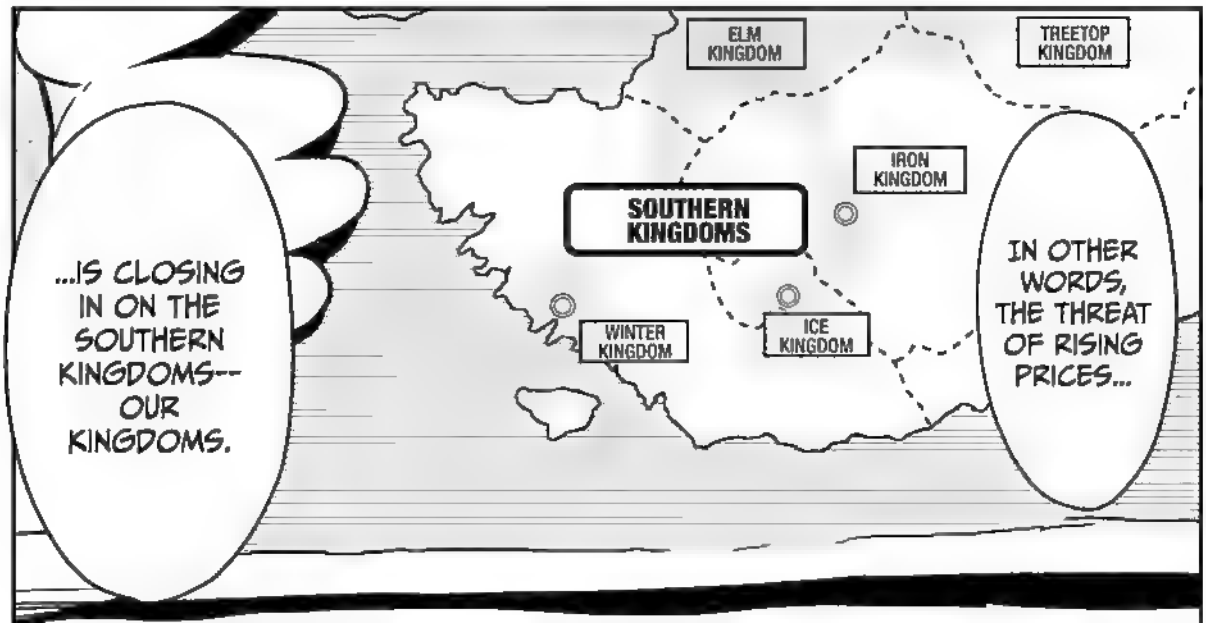

THE COMMON FOLK CAN'T LIVE LIKE THAT.
GOODS YOU COULD BUY FOR FIVE COINS LAST WEEK COST 10 THIS WEEK AND WILL COST 12 THE NEXT...
...AND THE PRICES ARE CONTINUING TO RISE.

IT'S SO EASY TO UNDER-STAND.
AND FOR SOME REASON MY HEART IS POUNDING.
ISN'T THIS SERIOUS?
YES.
SKWEEK
AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS GRAPH...
...PRICES ARE REACHING NEARLY DOUBLE WHAT THEY WERE LAST YEAR, AND THEY'RE NOT SLOWING DOWN.
AS A PRODUCT DISAPPEARS FROM A MARKET, ITS PRICE RISES...
...AND THE MONEY USED TO BUY THE GOODS IN-CREASES THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COINS IN CIRCULATION.
FLIP
MARKET
WHEAT
WHEAT
?
I BELIEVE SOMEONE MAY BE TRYING TO BUY UP ALL WHEAT.

FLIP
THOSE WHO POSSESSED MORE PRODUCTS ACQUIRED MORE COINS.
...AND THE REALITY IS COMMON FOLK DON'T HAVE ENOUGH COINS TO HANDLE THE RISE IN PRICES.
HOWEVER, LANDOWNERS AND NOBILITY OF THE WEALTHY CLASS ARE ACQUIRING MOST OF THESE COINS...
I'LL TELL YOU LATER.
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?
HRMMM
HMM
WHO IS DOING THIS, AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
WHAT'S IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW IS WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT.
VERY WELL.
WE HAVE TO HANDLE THE SITUATION FIRST.

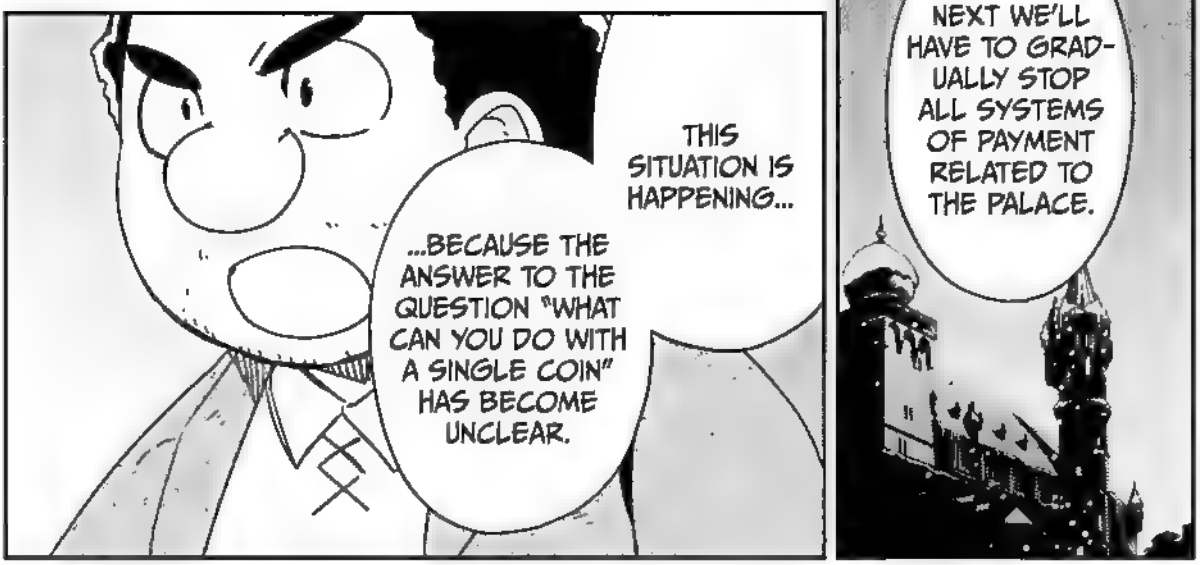
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WILL HAPPEN?
PRICES WILL CONTINUE TO RISE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL CONTINUE.
SNAP
FLIP

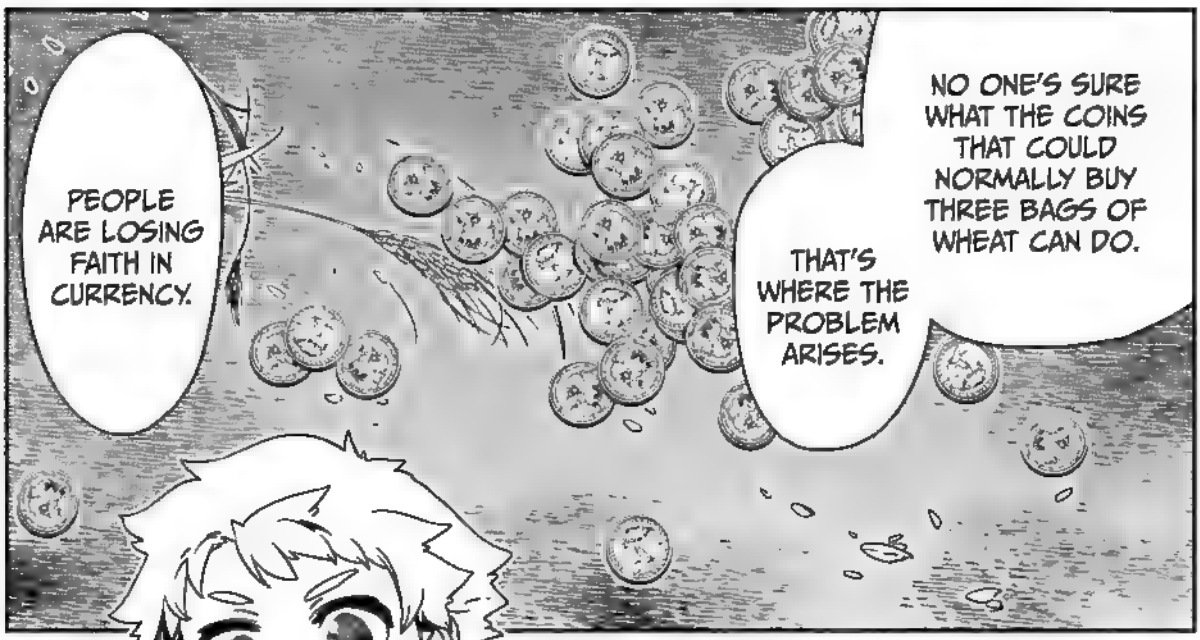

ROCKY SHORE KINGDOM
PURPLE FLAG QUEENDOM
DUNE KINGDOM
OAK KINGDOM
FALLEN LEAF KINGDOM
HOLY KINGDOM
CENTRAL CONTINENT
JADE KINGDOM
LAKE KINGDOM
BULL NECK KINGDOM
MOUNTAIN KINGDOM
COPPER KINGDOM
REED KINGDOM
TIN KINGDOM
MIST KINGDOM
HIGH
PRICES
LOW
AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS DIAGRAM, THERE'S CURRENTLY SOME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REGIONS IN THE RATE AT WHICH PRICES ARE RISING.
HOWEVER, PEOPLE ARE ATTEMPTING TO PROCURE GOODS FROM REGIONS WHERE PRICES HAVEN'T RISEN AS MUCH, AND THE AFFECTED AREA IS SPREADING.


ELM KINGDOM
TREETOP KINGDOM
IRON KINGDOM
SOUTHERN KINGDOMS
WINTER KINGDOM
ICE KINGDOM
IN OTHER WORDS, THE THREAT OF RISING PRICES...
...IS CLOSING IN ON THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS--OUR KINGDOMS.

DRIP
YOU MUST RECOGNIZE THIS AS A TYPE OF ATTACK.
WE MUST PROTECT OUR-SELVES.
I UNDER-STAND.
THE SITUATION CERTAINLY IS URGENT.

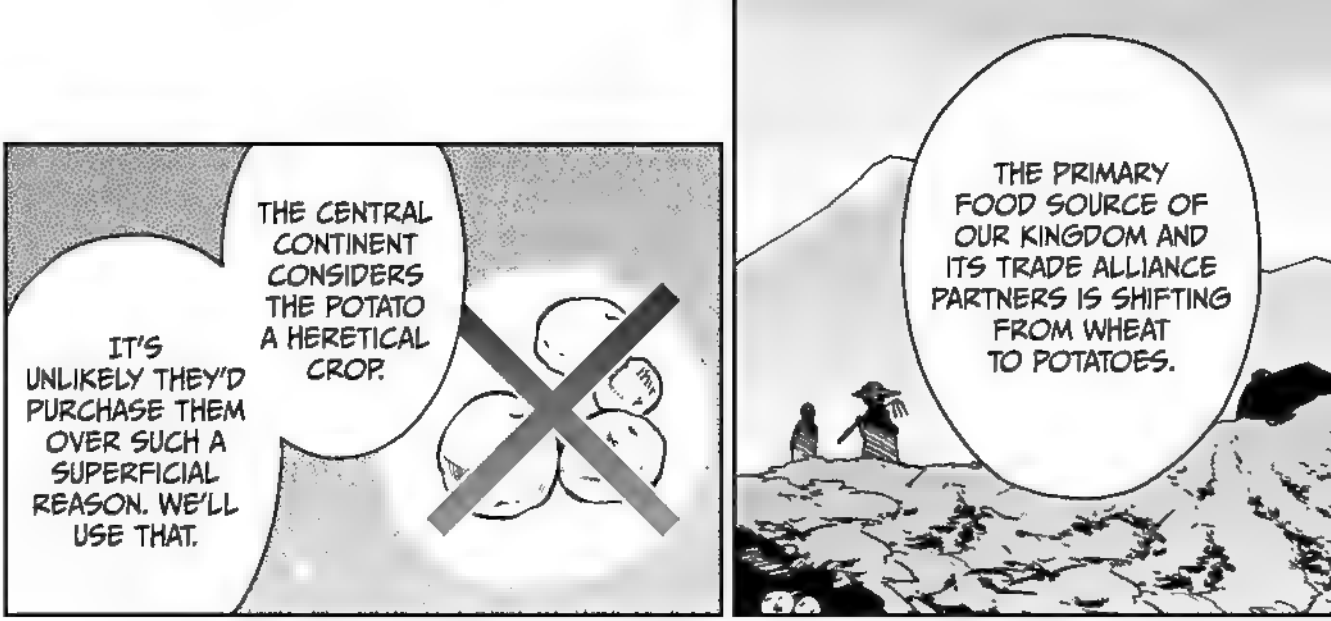
THE FIRST COUNTER-MEASURE IS A "CUSTOMS DUTY."
IT IS LIKE A TOLL?
WE'LL TAX GOODS, PRIMARILY WHEAT, AS THEY LEAVE THE THREE KINGDOM TRADE ALLIANCE.
WE'LL TAX EACH WAGON CARRYING WHEAT OR POTATOES OUT OF THE COUNTRY 10 GOLD COINS.
TEN GOLD COINS? THAT'S ABSURD!
IT'S SIMILAR, BUT IT IS LIMITED BY DIRECTION.
FLIP
IN THIS CASE, WE ONLY NEED TO TAX GOODS LEAVING THE KINGDOMS.
CUSTOMS DUTY
WINTER KINGDOM
DON'T WORRY. IT WONT HURT OUR PURSES.
BESIDES, IF YOU DON'T IMPOSE THIS CUSTOMS DUTY...
...ALL OUR FOOD WILL BE BOUGHT UP BY THE CENTRAL CONTINENT, AND WE'LL STARVE OVER THE WINTER.
YOU'RE RIGHT! PERHAPS WE SHOULD CHARGE 20!
CLENCH
I'D AT LEAST LIKE TO AVOID STARVING

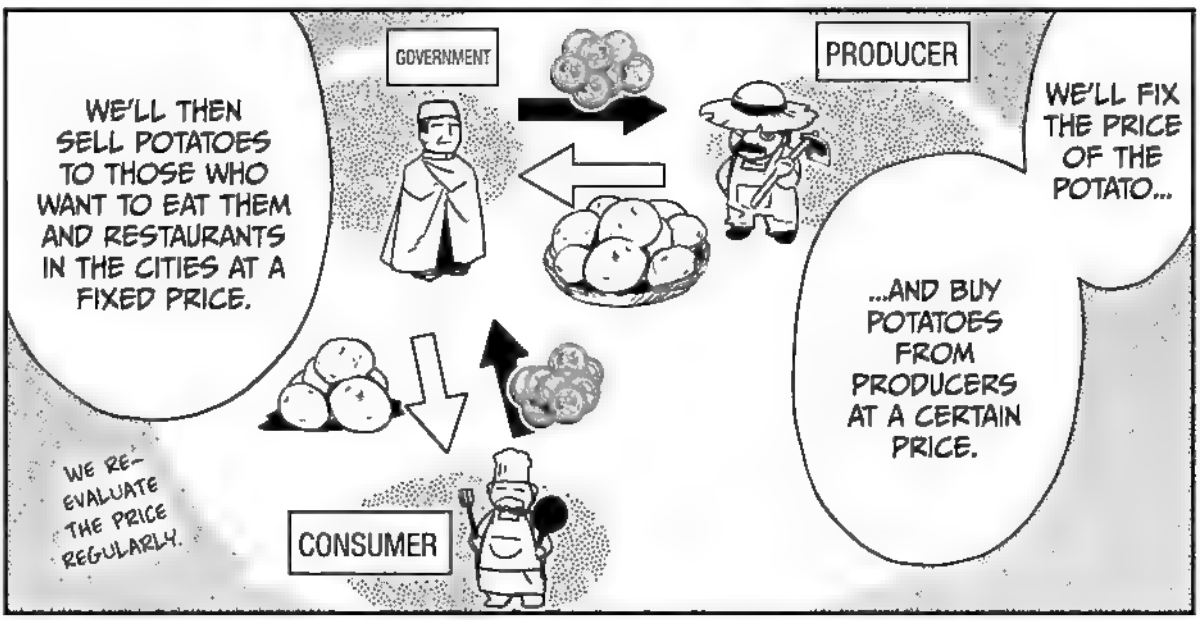

THIS SITUATION IS HAPPENING...
...BECAUSE THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION "WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A SINGLE COIN" HAS BECOME UNCLEAR.
NEXT WE'LL HAVE TO GRADUALLY STOP ALL SYSTEMS OF PAYMENT RELATED TO THE PALACE.

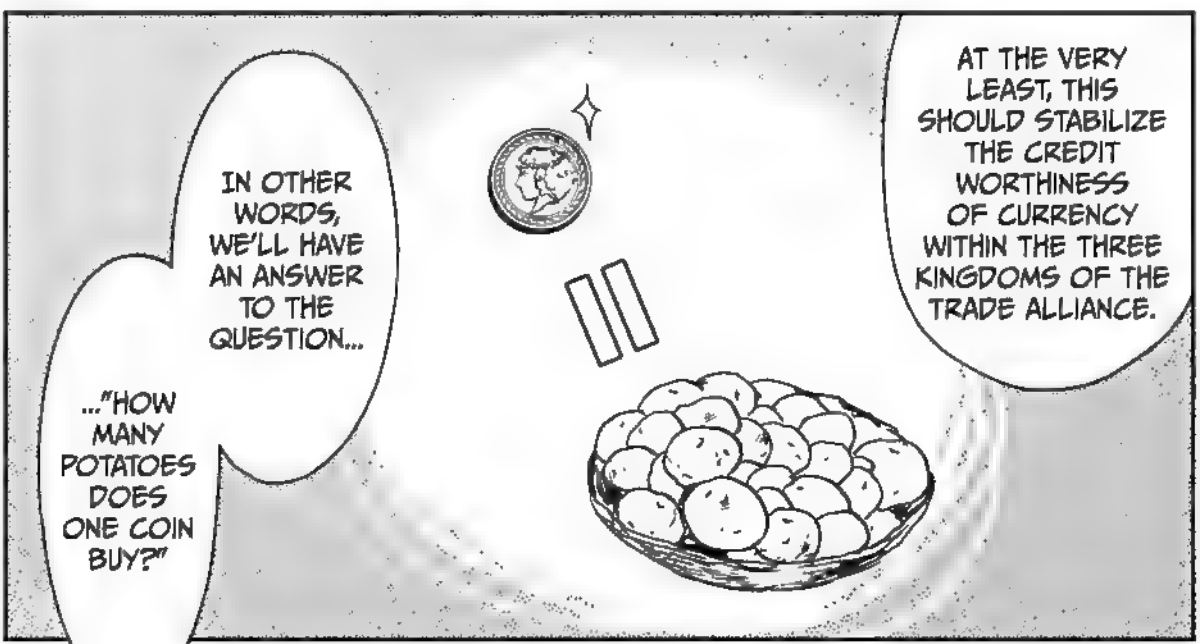

PEOPLE ARE LOSING FAITH IN CURRENCY.
NO ONE'S SURE WHAT THE COINS THAT COULD NORMALLY BUY THREE BAGS OF WHEAT CAN DO.
THAT'S WHERE THE PROBLEM ARISES.

WE SHOULD REDUCE OUR USE OF CURRENCY.
IF WE HAVE TO, WE'LL PAY OUR SOLDIERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS WITH WHEAT.
WHEAT

HMM
I SEE


THE PRIMARY FOOD SOURCE OF OUR KINGDOM AND ITS TRADE ALLIANCE PARTNERS IS SHIFTING FROM WHEAT TO POTATOES.
THE CENTRAL CONTINENT CONSIDERS THE POTATO A HERETICAL CROP.
IT'S UNLIKELY THEY'D PURCHASE THEM OVER SUCH A SUPERFICIAL REASON. WE'LL USE THAT.


GOVERNMENT
PRODUCER
CONSUMER
WE'LL THEN SELL POTATOES TO THOSE WHO WANT TO EAT THEM AND RESTAURANTS IN THE CITIES AT A FIXED PRICE.
WE'LL FIX THE PRICE OF THE POTATO...
...AND BUY POTATOES FROM PRODUCERS AT A CERTAIN PRICE.
WE RE-EVALUATE THE PRICE REGULARLY.


AT THE VERY LEAST, THIS SHOULD STABILIZE THE CREDIT WORTHINESS OF CURRENCY WITHIN THE THREE KINGDOMS OF THE TRADE ALLIANCE.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'LL HAVE AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION...
..."HOW MANY POTATOES DOES ONE COIN BUY?"

VERY WELL.
ARE THOSE ALL YOUR COUNTER-MEASURES?
WE SHOULD STORE AS MANY POTATOES AS POSSIBLE.
PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEIR PRO-DUCTION.

...ONCE THE CENTRAL CONTINENT'S FOOD SUPPLIES DRY UP, IT'S POSSIBLE LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WILL BEGIN IMMIGRATING.
IN ADDITION TO PEOPLE BEING FORCED INTO BECOMING BANDITS AND THIEVES...
I EXPECT PUBLIC SECURITY TO WORSEN TOO.

I'LL PROVE TO YOU OUR STANDING ARMY ISN'T JUST FOR SHOW.

LEAVE IT TO ME!
POUND
WE'LL HAVE TO STRENGTH-EN OUR GUARD AGAINST THESE.

I UNDERSTAND THE DETAILS.
I APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE.
THIS IS JUST MY JOB.
SIR.
ペコ BOW
ペコ BOW
I SEE YOU'RE QUITE INSIGHTFUL. STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE THE TREASURER.
FWIP
WHAT?
CRACK
YOU'RE A MARQUIS NOW. WE'LL DISCUSS YOUR WAGES AND COMPENSATION LATER.
BUT...
UMM...

I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
NOW THAT YOU'RE THE TREASURER, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THREE TIMES AS MUCH WORK!
DO YOU WANT A RED CAPE?
HA HA HA HA HA
I'LL BEGIN WORKING ON A PROCLAMATION IMMEDIATELY!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
THIS IS UP TO YOU NOW!
I NEED TO GO CHECK ON SECURITY.
SLAM
SHALL I MAKE SOME TEA?
PLEASE DO.

SIGH
SIGH.
I'M THE TREASURER?
IS THIS KINGDOM ALL RIGHT?
TEACHER!
DON'T BE SO MODEST.
THAT WAS IMPRESSIVE.
WERE YOU WATCHING?
MOST OF IT.
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.
PLEASE DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME.
!
YES, SIR.
BUT THIS COURSE OF EVENTS...
YOU KNOW WHO'S BEHIND IT, DON'T YOU?

I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYONE OTHER THAN THE ALLIANCE STARTING A TRADE WAR OF THIS SIZE.

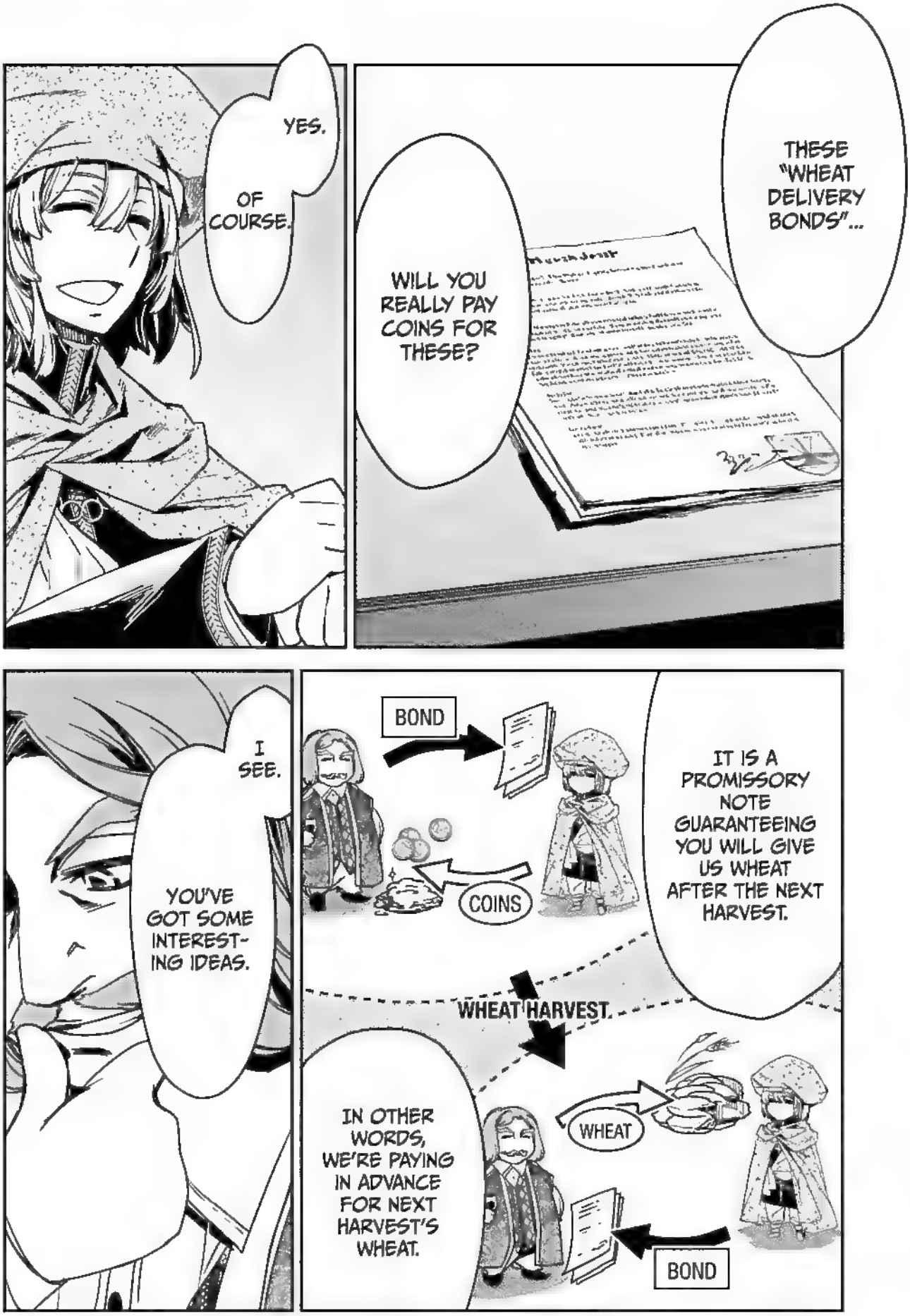
IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT IS THAT THEIR ONLY GOAL?
PERHAPS THEY'RE TRYING TO RAISE THE PRICE OF FOOD AND SELL THE GOODS FOR A PROFIT.
HOWEVER, THEIR GOAL ISN'T CLEAR.

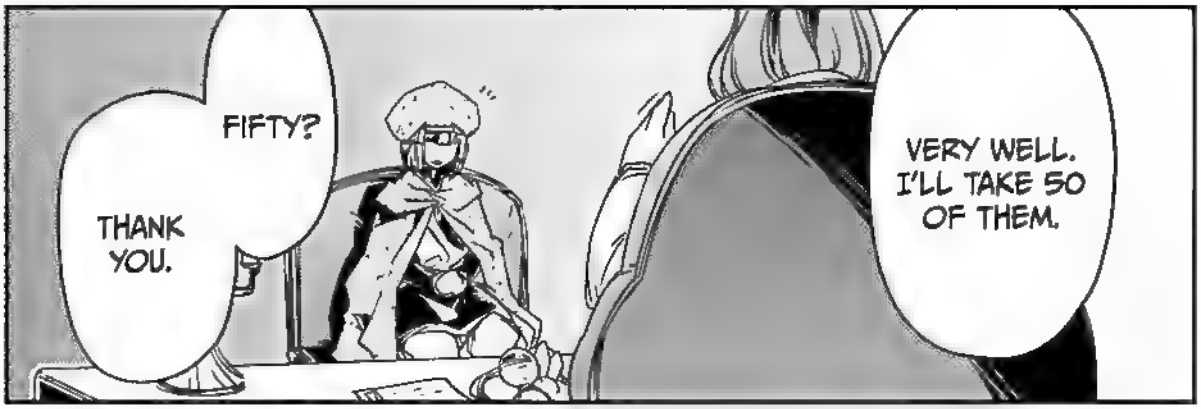
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO THAT PERSON MIGHT BE?

IN ANY CASE, THERE SHOULD BE A CENTRAL FIGURE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE WHO CREATED THIS SITUATION.
SOME KIND OF "PLAYER."

THE MIS-TRESS DID?
EVEN THE SCHOLAR TOOK HER HAT OFF TO HIM.
YEAH.
HE COULD PROBABLY PULL THIS OFF.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS GOAL IS, EITHER.
WHAT...
...IS HE TRYING TO DO BY BUYING UP THE CON-TINENT'S WHEAT?
IT'S BEAUTI-FUL.
THIS SHINE...
IT'S A DEEP, CLEAR RED.

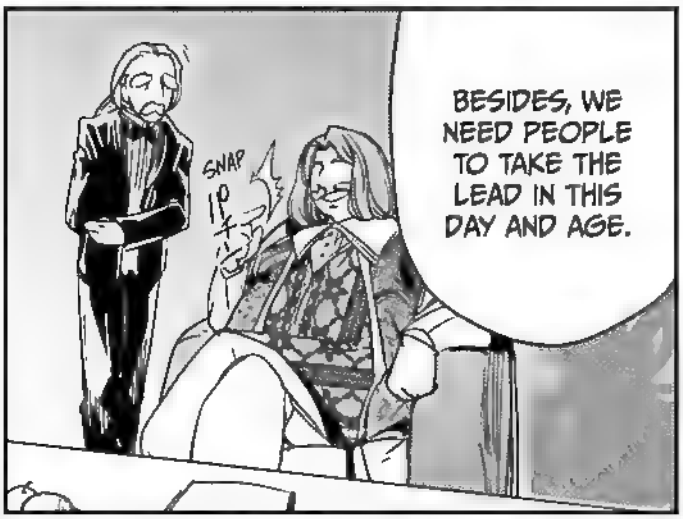
THIS PIGEON BLOOD RUBY OF THE NORTH...
...IS A TRUE TREASURE.
I'M IMPRESSED YOU ACQUIRED THIS.
NOT 'AT ALL.
I LEARNED MUCH FROM YOU.
I HOPE I CAN CONTINUE TO ENJOY YOUR PATRONAGE.
YOUR PAYMENT...
I KNOW.
YOU WANT ME TO PAY IN WHEAT, RIGHT?
I'D PAY ALL THE WHEAT IN THE WORLD...
...IN EXCHANGE FOR A GEM LIKE THIS.
SPEAKING OF WHEAT...

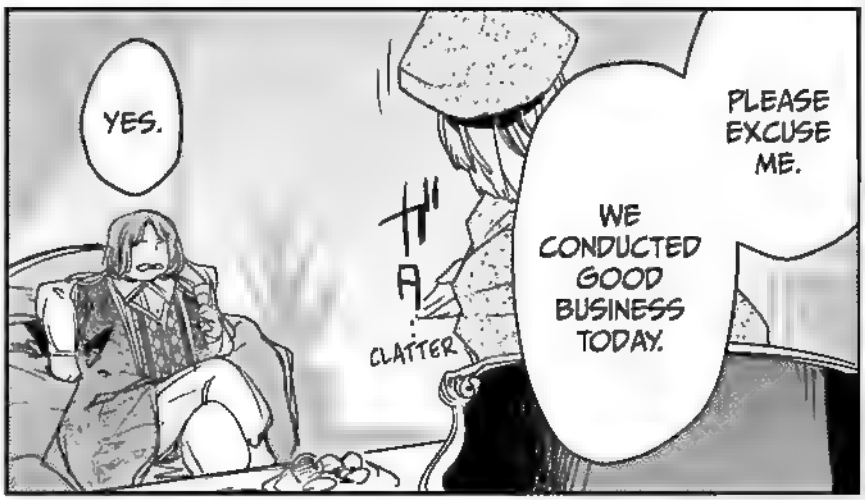

YES.
OF COURSE.
THESE "WHEAT DELIVERY BONDS"...
WILL YOU REALLY PAY COINS FOR THESE?
I SEE.
YOU'VE GOT SOME INTEREST-ING IDEAS.
BOND
COINS
IT IS A PROMISSORY NOTE GUARANTEEING YOU WILL GIVE US WHEAT AFTER THE NEXT HARVEST.
WHEAT HARVEST.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE PAYING IN ADVANCE FOR NEXT HARVEST'S WHEAT.
WHEAT
BOND


VERY WELL. I'LL TAKE 50 OF THEM.
FIFTY?
THANK YOU.

I LOOK FORWARD TO DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU AS WELL.

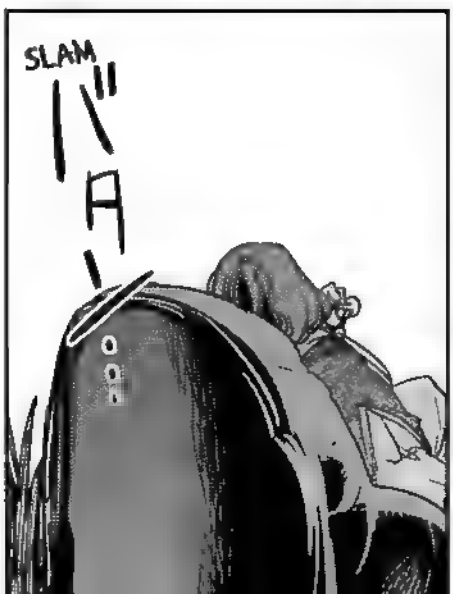
THINK OF IT AS MY THANKS FOR ACQUIRING THIS.
I LOOK FORWARD TO DOING MORE BUSINESS WITH YOU.

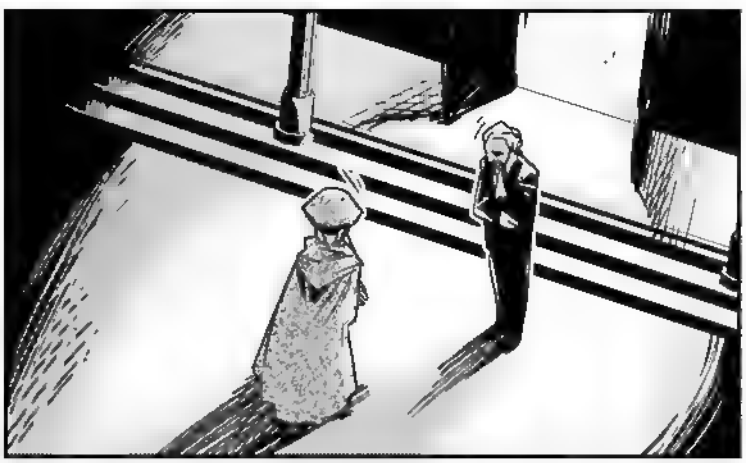

SNAP
BESIDES, WE NEED PEOPLE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS DAY AND AGE.


YES.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
WE CONDUCTED GOOD BUSINESS TODAY.
CLATTER

I APPRECIATE YOUR KINDNESS.
I PROMISE TO BE THERE.

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE OTHER NOBLES AT THE NEXT BALL.
I HOPE YOU'LL COME.

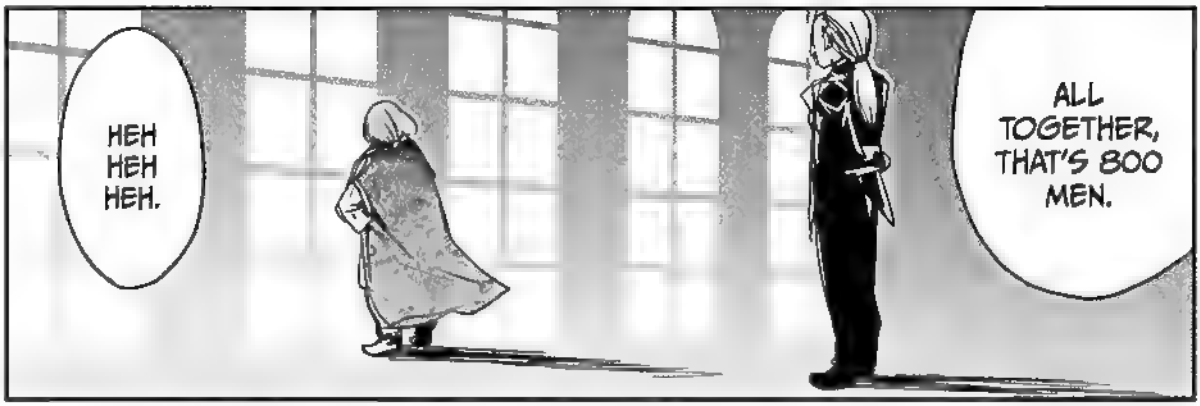

SLAM



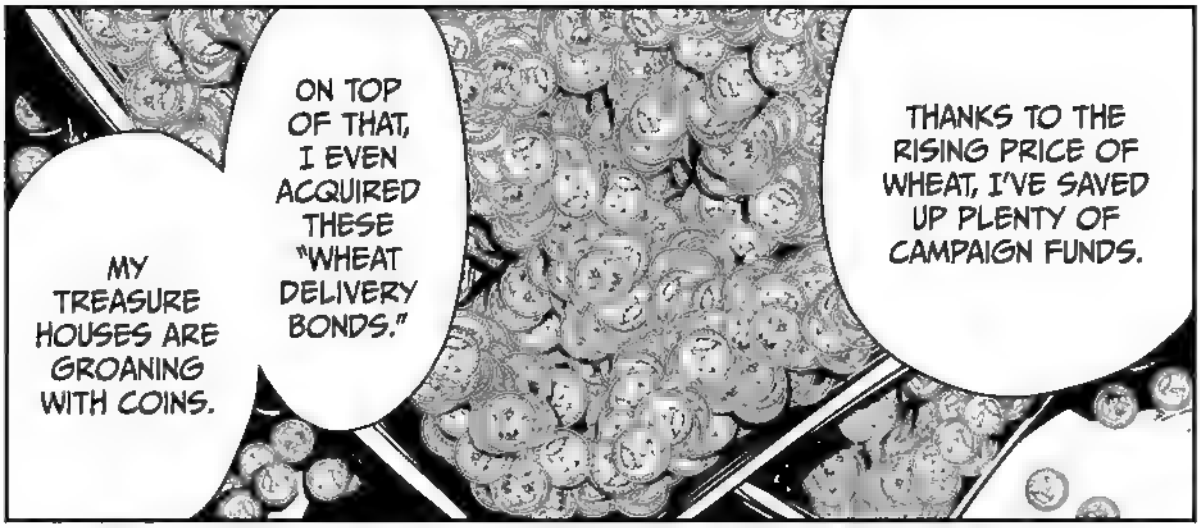
ARE YOU SURE, SIR?
ABOUT THAT NON-SENSICAL TRANSAC-TION...
HMMPH.
YOUNG RASCAL.
IT'S FINE.
THE COMMON FOLK WILL HARVEST THE WHEAT FOR ME.
WHAT'S TRULY VALUABLE ARE THINGS LIKE THESE THAT GLITTER.
BESIDES ...
...THERE'S NO NEED TO KEEP MY PROMISES TO LOWLY MERCHANTS.
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HOW ARE PREPARA-TIONS COMING ALONG?
SIR.
STIFFEN

I WAS ALSO ABLE TO HIRE A FAMOUS MERCENARY PARTY.

I'VE ALREADY NOTI-FIED THE KNIGHTS.
THEY SHOULD BE JOIN-ING US SOON.


HEH HEH HEH.
ALL TOGETHER, THAT'S 800 MEN.

WITH THAT MANY MEN, I CAN PROUDLY RESPOND TO THIS DRAFT.
THE BARBARIAN KINGS OF THE SOUTH MUST NOT BE EXPECTING US TO MOVE THIS QUICKLY.


THANKS TO THE RISING PRICE OF WHEAT, I'VE SAVED UP PLENTY OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS.
ON TOP OF THAT, I EVEN ACQUIRED THESE "WHEAT DELIVERY BONDS."
MY TREASURE HOUSES ARE GROANING WITH COINS.

I'LL STAIN THE BARBARIAN KINGS OF THE SOUTH WITH A RED EVEN DEEPER THAN THIS JEWEL!

IT TRULY IS THE GRACE OF THE SPIRITS.
THEY WANT US TO CRUSH THOSE TRAITOROUS SOUTHERN KINGDOMS.

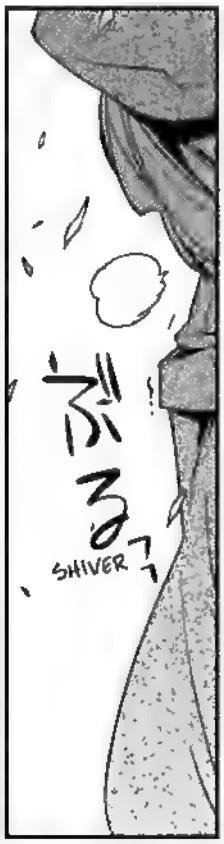
はははははは
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

STEP
STEP

WHOOSH

IT SHOULD BE SNOWING HARD IN THE SOUTH BY NOW.

IT'S ALREADY WINTER IN THE LAKE KINGDOM.
WHOOSH


SHIVER

AH!
WHOOPS.
THUD

STEP
STEP
STEP
DASH

EXCUSE ME.
NO, I'M SORRY...
OH.
IT'S DANGER-OUS FOR A WOMAN TO BE WALKING ALONE SO LATE AT NIGHT.
PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR LODGINGS CARE-FULLY.
GOOD-BYE.
I FINALLY FOUND YOU.

PLEASE WAIT.
STEP
WHAT?
UMM...
WE MET ONCE BEFORE.
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
I CAN'T SEE YOUR FACE.
OH.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
RUSTLE

I HEARD AT THE PARTY THAT YOU ARE A MERCHANT...
...A MAN WHO CAN ACQUIRE ANYTHING.
RUSTLE
SWISH

THE END

CHAPTER 16
What Can You Do With a Single Coin?

CUSTOMS DUTIES and their EFFECTS

Customs duties, which were born along with merchants, not only function as a source of tax revenue, but they are also an important system related to national policy.

IT'S SIMILAR, BUT IT IS LIMITED BY DIRECTION.
FLIP
IN THIS CASE, WE ONLY NEED TO TAX GOODS LEAVING THE KINGDOMS.
CUSTOMS DUTY
WINTER KINGDOM

Customs duties are a tax applied to goods transported between nations. In this work, they decide to impose a customs duty on exports.

PROTECTING DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES WITH CUSTOMS DUTIES IS A DELICATE PROBLEM

"Customs duties" are a tax imposed on exported or imported goods or services. In the modern era, "customs duties" refers simply to the import tax applied to imported goods or services.

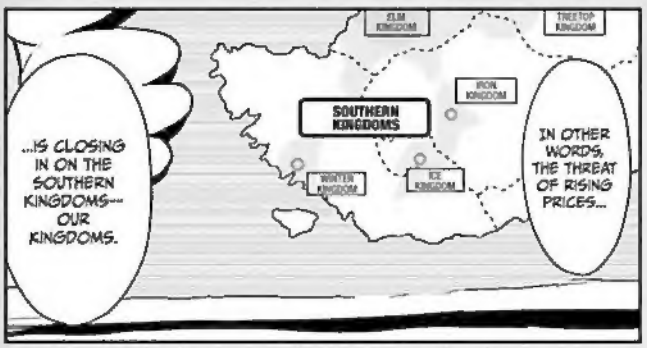
In addition to being a source of tax revenue for a nation, "custom duties" can also protect and accelerate the promotion of domestic industries and markets. For example, when a country's automobile industry is declining or it wishes to promote its industry, it will impose a customs duty on imported cars. This causes the price of imported cars to rise, and the domestic demand for imported cars falls, securing demand for domestically produced cars.

Customs duties have existed since long ago, and letters from the Roman Era in the year 59 BCE describe a dispute between a tax collector and a merchant. Later during the Middle Ages when feudal systems were established and the territories of landowners became clear, landowners began imposing customs duties on goods entering and leaving their territory. Some people believe when merchants specializing in the physical distribution of goods appeared, custom duties were born to collect taxes from their profits.

In *Maoyu*, on the Central Continent a shortage of goods is causing the value of currency to decline, resulting in inflation, and custom duties appeared as a way for the Southern Kingdoms to protect themselves from this inflation.

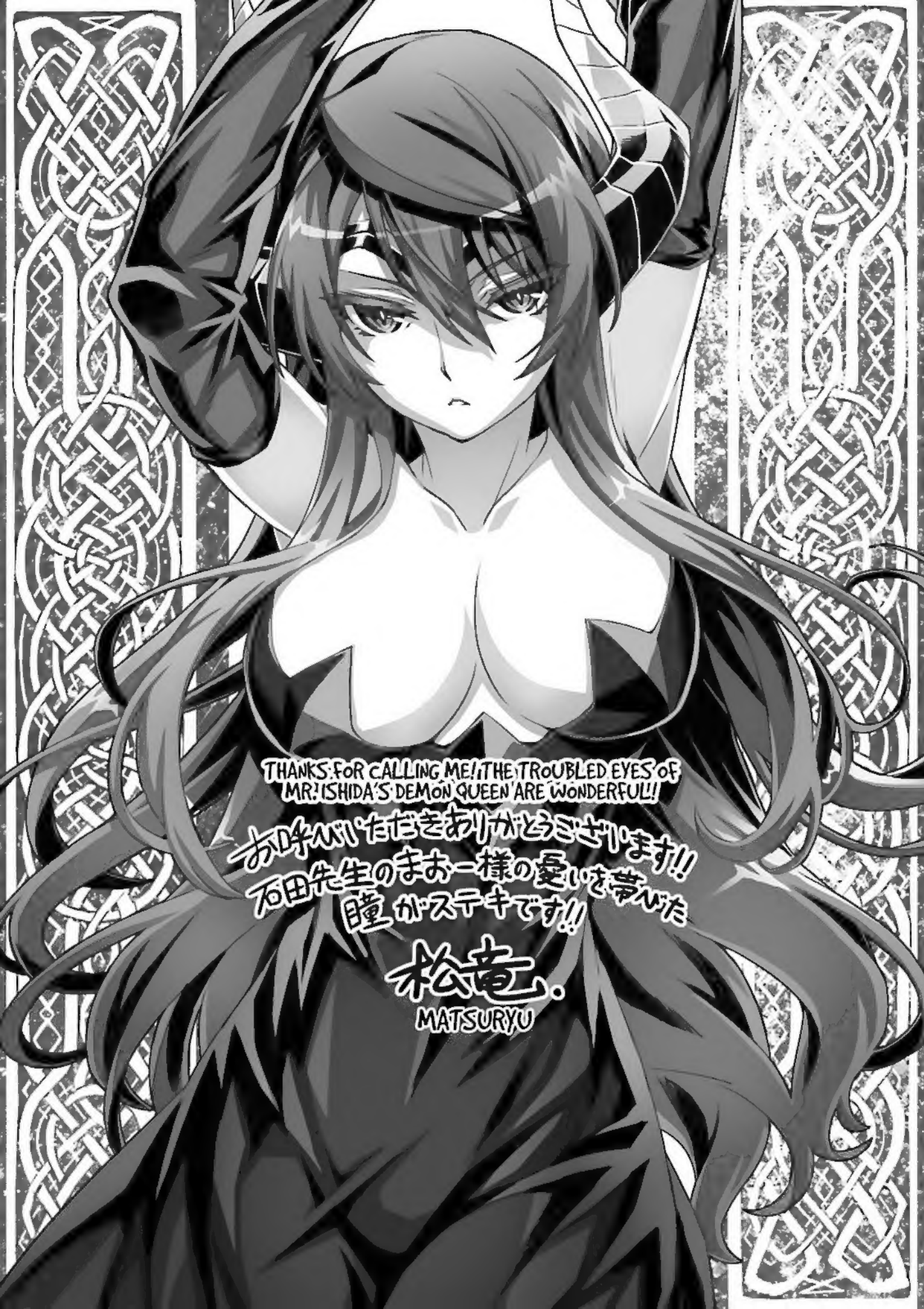
The Southern Kingdoms impose a high tax rate on the goods the Central countries are attempting to buy from them. If the tax they impose makes the products more expensive to purchase than they are in the Central countries, the merits of procuring goods from the Southern Kingdoms disappears fro the Central countries. In this manner, the south can prevent its goods from flowing into the Central countries.

This type of customs duty risks having the Central Continent retaliate by imposing its own high tax rate on goods heading into the south. Just as the Austro-Hungarian Empire started the "Pig War" by imposing high customs duties on livestock products from Serbia in 1906, custom duties are very delicate political problem.



The Merchant's Son suggested high export duties as a way to combat the inflation occurring in the Central countries.

This time, because the south wanted to become materially independent from the Central Continent through the cultivation of potatoes, they were able to take on a strong attitude.


THANKS FOR CALLING ME! THE TROUBLED EYES OF MR. ISHIDA'S DEMON QUEEN ARE WONDERFUL!!
お呼びいただきありがとうございます!!
石田先生のまおー様の憂いを帯びた
瞳がステキです!!
松竜。
MATSURYU

THANK YOU, GUEST ILLUSTRATOR MATSURYU!

MAOYU : Archenemy and Hero
"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"
Volume 4

KADOKAWA MANGA

Art by
Akira Ishida

Original Work by
Mamare Touno

Character Design by
Keinojou Mizutama and toi8

MAOYU MAOU YUUSHA
"KONO WARENO MONOTONARE, YUUSHAYO" "KOTOWARU!"

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KADOKAWA CORPORATION
2-13-3 Fujimi Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, 102-8177 JAPAN

T+
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